

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

JUNE 6, 1991

**JIMMY JENKINS
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
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AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JUNE 6, 1991

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MINUTES OF MEETING

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 1991

Chairman James H. Jenkins, Jr. presiding.

Thursday, June, 1991

Houston Foret
Bert Jones
Norman McCall
Warren Pol
Jeff Schneider
Pete Vujnovich

Acting Secretary A. Kell McInnis III was also present.

***Due to a mechanical failure in the recording system the following agenda items were not recorded and the minutes had to be transcribed from notes taken during the meeting. These agenda items are: 1) Approval of Minutes; 2) Boise Cascade WMA Lease Renewals and Recognition; 3) Turkey Hunting Season Report and Drawing for Shotguns; 4) Recommended Changes in Notice of Intent 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons; and 5) Habitat Conservation Division Review.**

Chairman Jenkins called for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the May 2, 1991, Commission Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. McCall and seconded by Mr. Vujnovich. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dave Morrison presented for signature the Boise Cascade WMA Lease Renewals. Mr. Morrison introduced Mr. John Gerber representing Boise Cascade and explained that these leases are a renewal of Boise's commitment to the department. Currently the leases are in excess of 93,000 acres to the department on a free lease basis. These lands are associated with three wildlife management areas, which are Boise Vernon, Sabine and West Bay located in west and southwest Louisiana. Boise lands have been part of the wildlife management area system since the 1950's. These agreements give the department the right to manage the wildlife resources and create long term management commitments between the department and Boise Cascade. The leases are based on annual renewals of five years with the effective date of the first installment beginning July 1, 1991 and extending through June 30, 1991. New agreements assure the existence of these important areas. The department would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude and commend Boise Cascade for their commitment to the sportsmen of Louisiana. Without this support the department's wildlife management area system would not be as successful as it is concluded Mr. Morrison. At this point during

the meeting Mr. Gerber and Acting Secretary McInnis signed the lease renewals and pictures were taken for the "Louisiana Conservationist" magazine.

Mr. Hugh Bateman gave the 1991 Turkey Hunting Season Report and the Shot Gun Drawing was held. Mr. Bateman reported that 215 turkeys had been captured and released in other areas of the state. With the help of the National Turkey Federation and local clubs 18 turkeys were captured in Alabama to help support trapping efforts in Louisiana. The weather had quite an effect on the turkey hunting season this year. There were approximately 1,317 gobblers taken by hunters to the check stations during the spring turkey season. This was down 200 from last year. Mr. Bateman stated that because of the heavy rains the spring turkey hatch in the bottomland hardwoods was probably destroyed with the hatch being greatly reduced in the hills. The department does not expect second nesting attempts to be successful advised Mr. Bateman.

Acting Secretary McInnis asked Mr. Bateman about the new areas that opened up for turkey hunting this year. Mr. Bateman explained that because of the turkey restocking program that for the first time in five years there was a spring turkey hunting season on Bodcau Wildlife Management Area along with private lands that had also been closed. There were 66 wild turkeys taken off of Bodcau.

Mr. Jones asked about the outlook for next year's season. Mr. Bateman explained the because of the effects the weather have had on the hatch there could be some changes for next year.

At this point during the meeting the drawing took place for the shotguns. The hunters who brought a turkey to the check stations were eligible to win one of the three shotguns that were donated by Tri-Parish, Cenla and North Central chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Mr. John Dawsee from Cenla drew the winning numbers. The winners were Mr. T.W. Thompson, Pointe Coupee Parish, Mr. Steve Gottschalk, Hammond, Louisiana and Mr. Tommy Smith, Mansfield, Louisiana. Concluding Mr. Bateman thanked all of the Wild Turkey Federation Clubs for their time and donations.

Mr. Hugh Bateman presented the Recommended Changes in the Notice of Intent on 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons. Mr. Bateman presented to the Commission three options to be considered on recommendations for changes. These options were:

- A. Bucks only hunting on the Big Lake, Bouef and Saline Wildlife Management Areas (November 29, 30 and December 1, 1991). Establish self-clearing stations on these areas to obtain hunter participation and success information. Convert the Thistlewaite area to a pre-application lottery system for either-sex gun hunts.

B. Retain either-sex deer hunting regulations as recommended in the original notice of intent.

C. Complete closure of all deer hunting on the Big Lake, Boeuf and Saline Wildlife areas.

Mr. Bateman explained that these were the three recommendations being made and that the Commission did not have to make their decision until the July Commission meeting.

Mr. Jones asked about option A and the surrounding areas around the wildlife management areas. A short discussion followed and it was noted by Mr. Bateman that this same issue had been discussed by his staff prior to the meeting. There would be potential closed areas (private lands) around the wildlife management areas with option A. Mr. Reggie Wycoff, District Supervisor, Ferriday, Louisiana, has maps showing the areas that could be affected advised Mr. Bateman. This would also affect the bow hunting season and the muzzleloader season. Mr. Jones advised that he too had maps showing the surrounding areas that could be affected. The two maps were compared.

Mr. Bateman gave other changes. One change involved the rabbit season on Atakapas, Grassy Lake, and Pomme de Terre Wildlife Management Areas which would change rabbit dog season dates to January 25 - February 2. Area 6 deer dog season closes January 19 and this will prevent potential conflict on the WMA's. Another was move the turkey season to March 28 - April 15 on Grassy Lake. Season reduced by 7 days and moved earlier to correspond with Area A opening.

Mr. Schneider asked how long would this program (Option A) be in effect until results are seen. Mr. Bateman advised that it needed to be reviewed on a year to year basis. Mr. Schneider asked if there was any kind of program in the department to address this issue. Mr. Bateman explained what the department would do and how the program would work. Concluding Mr. Bateman asked if there were any questions.

There being none Chairman Jenkins asked if there were any comments from the audience.

Mr. Richard Daigre, Alexandria, Louisiana, addressed the Commission. Mr. Daigre stated that a long range plan for the management of the deer herds was needed for Big Lake, Boeuf and Saline as these areas do not have the populations and asked that there be a three year closure on these areas including Sicily Island Hills. After further comments by Mr. Daigre on the process of the Commission considering the proposed recommendations he asked when would the public be notified of the Commission's decision. This process was explained by Acting Secretary McInnis to Mr. Daigre.

Mr. Pol made a motion that the hunting season recommendations be referred to the Commission Hunting Season Committee for consideration and that they have a report at least three days prior to the July Commission meeting. The recommendations will be made at the July Commission meeting for consideration by full Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schneider and passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnnie Tarver gave a report and slide presentation on the Habitat Conservation Division. A brief history of the program was given and it was pointed out that this program dated back to the Federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1946. The division encompasses the Environmental Section, Natural Heritage Program and Non-Game Program. The goal of the division is to the maximum extent possible conserve fish and wildlife habitat throughout the State of Louisiana and its coastal waters. Objectives of the division are: annually prevent or mitigate the destruction of wetlands and other valuable wildlife habitat by causing permit applicants to reduce damages and mitigate the unavoidable loss of those habitats through the creation or replacement of habitats of equal value; implement the Scenic River Act for protection and management of the Scenic River System by June 30, 1995; insure that no rare, threatened, or endangered species or habitats are lost from the state; and raise public awareness and promote conservation and management of all nongame wildlife species.

Several committees that this division participates on are: Cameron-Creole Watershed; Barataria-Terrebonne NEP; Governor's Wetland Task Force; Black Bear Conservation Committee; International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Mussel Task Force; Land Acquisition Task Force; Government Wetland Task Force; Scenic Rivers Task Force; Amite River Basin Interagency Committee; Governor's Task Force on flood Prevention and Mitigation; Society of American Foresters RCW Task Force; Governor's Capitol Lake Task Force; LA Department Agriculture and Forestry Stewardship Forestry Program and Endangered Species Task Force; DEQ's LEAP 2000 Comparative Risk Program; and LDOTD's Project Wildflower.

Mr. Tarver concluded by saying that in January 1990 the Responsive Management Survey was released. It indicated that 48 percent of the people in the state are active non-consumptive users of wildlife and 90 percent of the people in the state are in favor of a program expansion requiring raising new revenues. Sixty percent viewed the Habitat Conservation Division favorably and 91 percent supported the expansion of the Endangered Species Management program. Ninety percent supported the expansion of the Scenic Streams program; 83 percent supported the expansion of information on attracting wildlife.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Blue Watson, Ecological Studies Section Program Manager in the Habitat Conservation Division, gave

a brief overview of his program as to where they are, where they need to be, etc. Mr. Watson, pointed out on the slide, a representation on a log scale, the number of permits reviewed last year and permits projected to review this year. There are approximately 1,000 permits per year, per individual for review in the section. Due to the work plan the section has committed itself to attempt to look at least 50 percent of the projects. If this is done, based on the number of projects that are reviewed a year, it would require six additional staff members. You are looking at six man years per year to be able to cover 50 percent of the projects that are reviewed advised Mr. Watson. The additional responsibilities would require an additional two staff members bringing the total requirement to be able to meet the current mandates and current load in the Ecological Study Section to a total of eight. The Scenic Rivers program requires a great deal of surveillance of streams, enforcement of the act, permit site inspections, complaint investigations, permit review, rivers surveys, permit issuance, and development of management plans on all streams. To accomplish this task five staff members would be required to handle this load and would be a full time job. Currently the section has two staff members. The section is surprisingly successful in a lot of the things that they are doing in permit review and issuance. Problems areas are where the staff members do not get out in the field to look at sites. The section is able to visit all of the major project sites but there are many applications that are being received that do need a field investigation and the section is not able to accomplish this concluded Mr. Watson.

Chairman Jenkins asked if anyone had any questions. There being none Mr. Tarver advised that if there are any of the programs the Commissioners are interested in they would be happy to put a slide presentation together for them at their convenience.

A Notice of Intent on 22 Inches Minimum Total Size Limit for Commercial Harvest of Bowfin was presented by Dr. Jerry Clark. Dr. Clark reported that a year ago a member of the Legislature was interesting in passing this management system for bowfin. A resolution was passed requiring the department to do a study on bowfin and report back with recommendations. This was done and the recommendations were given to the legislator and he is currently running with a bill in the Legislature to do all the things that the department is proposing in the notice of intent. The bill has gone through the House Natural Resources Committee, through the House, and through the Senate Natural Resources Committee this morning. It is the department's preference that this bill not pass because if it does it will remove the Commission's regulatory authority over this species advised Dr. Clark. The Senate Natural Resources Committee was told this morning that the Commission was going to be provided with the notice of intent this afternoon and there was very serious interest in what the Commission was about to do. Dr. Clark believes if the Commission goes forward with this

that legislation may in fact be stopped which is the hope of the department. This recommendation is the result of the department's research and is the biologist's recommendation for managing the bowfin fishery especially as it relates to the roe fishery which has developed rapidly in the state. The notice of intent was presented to the Commission for approval. It would establish a 22 inch minimum total size limit on the commercial harvest of bowfin and adopt a rule that says that no commercial fisherman may be in his boat with bowfin eggs or roe unless they are naturally attached to the fish.

A motion was made by Mr. McCall to adopt the notice of intent on the bowfin fishery. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the notice of intent is made part of the record)

**NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

**PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE
CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING**

SECTION 153. BOWFIN MINIMUM SIZE REGULATIONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish a statewide 22" minimum size limit on bowfin (Amia calva) harvested for commercial purposes.

In addition, it is the Commission's intent to prohibit commercial fishermen, while on the water, from possessing bowfin eggs that are not naturally connected to a whole fish.

The intent of this regulation is to provide bowfin with adequate protection as the roe fishery for this species expands. Research on this species indicates that the majority of 22" female bowfin have spawned at least one time.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to the following address before : Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr., Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), 326.3

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins
Chairman

Dr. Jerry Clark proceeded to give a Report on the Commercial Spotted Seatrout Quota. Dr. Clark handed out the monthly report on the commercial spotted seatrout monthly landings and explained that the first section of data was the monthly landings where the fishing year is 1985-86 through 1990-91 and the second section of data was the accumulative landings for the same time period by month. The current estimate of the current status of the commercial quota through the end of May, preliminary estimate, is 958,467 pounds. Chairman Jenkins asked if a closure date could be forecasted. Dr. Clark advised that the numbers were run through the regression model and it indicated that it was possible that the season would stay open all summer and the quota would not be met. Traditionally the summer season is not a very high harvest level for spotted seatrout. Dr. Clark pointed out that the computer model is based upon historical fishing levels of activity that most of which were prior to the quota and because there is a quota probably the fishing pressure and fishing efforts have been shifted. Whether or not the relatively low levels of spotted seatrout harvest that was seen in the past will continue the department does not know. Dr. Clark stated if he had to guess, he would guess that they would not but right now they do not have a prediction for when it would close.

Mr. Pol asked Dr. Clark if he believed this was because of a shortage of trout or a shortage of fishermen. Dr. Clark advised that he believes that at least in part they are still working off the relatively low levels of harvest that were seen in the early months of the season, starting back in September, October, November, and December of 1990 when the fishery was still under the impacts of the freeze. Dr. Clark does not think that the current fishing pressure is associated with the lack of fish. People are seeing spotted seatrout in the marsh in places where they have not been seen for 14 or 15 months. In answering Mr. Pol's question Dr. Clark advised that he guessed his answer was no, not now.

Mr. Jenkins asked about the catch in December 1990-91 as compared to December 1989-90 which shows less than half as much this year as the year before but moving to the next month, January, shows about three times as much this year as the year before and if this said anything. Dr. Clark answered he was not sure but if you look through the data in other years, other times and other places you

will see the same thing. There always has been relatively high variance in the monthly reported landings.

Mr. Pol asked what would have to be done to get a proper count and does Dr. Clark feel like the department is getting the right information. Dr. Clark stated that the department would have to have a lot more resources to put into this and a continuous ongoing auditing program would have to be begun along with a continuous ongoing law enforcement program, both of which are very expensive, time consuming activities. Mr. Pol asked if it was known that some wholesalers have under reported. Dr. Clark answered certainly. Mr. Pol asked if there has been prosecution. Dr. Clark advised that this morning he received a memo on a group of activities that have taken place between the Office of Fisheries and Law Enforcement over the last month and a half. The department has attempted to visit many, if not most of the wholesale, retail dealers that have reported spotted seatrout landings over the last couple of years. Dr. Clark proceeded to read the memo.

"Between April 29, 1991, and June 6, 1991, twenty eight fish houses had purchase receipts for spotted seatrout audited for the period from September 1990 to March 1991. These houses accounted for approximately seventy five percent of the total reported landings for spotted seatrout during this period. Of the 196 comparisons between monthly dealer's reports submitted to the department as per our rules and the statute and the audit of the purchase receipts thirty four, or seventeen percent, were unanalyzable because of lack of records, purchase receipts not available at the time of the audit or the department having no dealer report accessible. In seventy two, or thirty seven percent, of the cases figures reported matched those audited at the fish houses. Ninety two or forty seven percent there were discrepancies. Of those ninety two discrepancies, forty one were actually over reported ranging from two pounds to 5,603 pounds while fifty one were under reported ranging from two pounds to 9,350 pounds. Fourteen of these discrepancies above and below were more than a thousand pounds. Seven of which were under and seven of which were over. Monthly discrepancies ranged from 9,383 pounds under reported for the total package to 4,635 pounds over reported. During the seven month time period that was audited a total of 16,919 pounds were under reported which is about 2.1 percent of the total reported landings. Quality of purchase records kept at these fish houses range from excellent to very poor. Major irregularities included lack of species identified, lack of a fisherman or a commercial license number being recorded on a ticket, no date and simply poor organization. Major discrepancies on the monthly report were traced to the fact that dealers reported sales figures that included fish purchased from other wholesale retail dealers as well as those purchased directly from commercial fishermen."

Colonel Winton Vidrine advised that Enforcement is working with department biologists and according to his records twenty two seafood houses were checked with fifteen in order, seven had problems, four will definitely be given citations and three are questionable because their accountants had their records.

Mr. Pol advised that both he and Mr. Jenkins have received complaints, one from a former member of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, from the Grand Isle area that there are sports fishermen catching and selling fish. A lot of them are catching undersize fish. Colonel Vidrine asked if the informant had the information as to what houses were buying the fish. Mr. Pol advised that he thinks the gentleman would be happy to talk to Colonel Vidrine and advised that in the Grand Isle area there were forty one citations issued this past month for undersize speckled trout.

Mr. McCall asked if anything was being done about fisherman coming at night into a remote area and loading trout into refrigerated trucks and going out of town with them, with some leaving the state. Does the department know how many are being trucked out of the state? Dr. Clark answered that there was no part of that activity as part of the report. Mr. McCall believes that there is a lot of cheating going on and the department and Commission are not getting the full report on the fish. There are a lot more being caught than are showing up on the records and paperwork. Dr. Clark stated that he does not believe that there has been any cases made on this in the last twelve months or so. Mr. McCall advised that he has been told that there are fish being caught in Calcasieu Lake, being loaded into refrigerated trucks (two different areas) and the trucks leave. Where they go Mr. McCall does not know. He has also been told that there are refrigerated trucks coming from out-of-state with people with cash in their pockets making the remark "he stays until his truck is full of fish or he runs out of money". Mr. McCall stated that what he is saying is that from the reports he is hearing and the people he is talking to that there is a lot of fish being caught that are not reported and if all the fish that were caught were reported the department would most probably be over the quota right now. Mr. McCall pointed out that he was not saying just commercial fishermen and was sure that there are guilty parties in the sports fishing group where they are selling sport fish and when you add all of this up together Mr. McCall believes that the quota has already been met. Dr. Clark advised that whenever you have a quota you have an incentive to do exactly what Mr. McCall is talking about and this is an inherent part of a quota system. Mr. McCall asked what could be done about it. Dr. Clark stated that his answer is always the same, the only thing you can do is that you have got to continuously audit the books, continuously have law enforcement, undercover work at the fish houses, etc. This is a very difficult thing to do to make these kinds of cases.

Mr. Foret asked what would you have to do to take the quota out and just open the season from December 1 to May 1. Dr. Clark pointed out that the Commission would have to get a law changed to give them regulatory authority and advised that there is a bill in the legislature to give the Commission regulatory authority.

Mr. Pol asked how did the bill stand in the legislature. Dr. Clark answered that it was his understanding it will be heard in the House Natural Resources Committee next Wednesday and it has already gone through the Senate Committee with five votes against the bill in the Senate.

Mr. McCall made a motion that for the July meeting Secretary McInnis develop a plan which outlines a method to enforce the reporting of the quota correctly, including proper enforcement of the total reporting requirements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.

Mr. William E. Kass IV, President of the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, addressed the Commission on Item 10 of the agenda, Seismic Fees, which was struck from today's agenda because of lack of representation from the companies. Mr. Kass stated that they are very much interested in this because of the seed grounds and asked if there was some explanation why this keeps on being pulled from the agenda. Chairman Jenkins advised that they have had several meetings with the industry representatives and the requirements of the information needed to furnish to evaluate what they are requesting has never been furnished. Until they can furnish this there is not much sense in coming before the Commission. Mr. Kass asked what the rules and regulations were right now and what were they looking at changing it to. Chairman Jenkins advised that a copy of the present rules and regulations could be obtained if Mr. Kass would like to look at them. What is going to be proposed deals with fee schedule changes. Mr. Kass stated that they were just wondering if the state has the money to reduce this and keep up the grounds. The seed grounds have been deplorable for the last two or three years and there is going to be less money for the same amount of damages going over them and this is what they are concerned about advised Mr. Kass. Where is the state going to come up with this money? Chairman Jenkins advised that there will be a hearing and those questions will be answered.

Mr. Phil Bowman gave a **Informational Shrimp Report on the Season's Opening**. Mr. Bowman reported that the environmental conditions that were reported during the last Commission meeting held in New Orleans in May continued to deteriorate through the middle and into the end of May. There was a tremendous amount of rainfall and the tides were above two to four feet above normal in Zone 2 when the season opened. The conditions were not very conducive to shrimp growth.

The special two day shrimp season in Calcasieu Lake was an excellent move and during that particular time an estimated 75,000 pounds of 31-35 to 36-40 count white shrimp were harvested. This was a benefit to the people in that area as well as the State of Louisiana.

When the season opened in the central part of the coast there were relatively strong south and southeast winds with two to four foot tides above normal. There were a fair number of shrimp but were small and continued through the opening to two to three weeks of the season. Two observations relative to the opening in Zone 2 as compared to the past five years were the absence of medium size brown shrimp which are normally found in the lower bays and near offshore waters when the season opens. Also a significant reduction in effort was observed which was probably a combination of a couple of factors. License sales this year for trawl licenses were down substantially as compared to last year. This coupled with flooded launches and anticipation of only small shrimp being available probably contributed to the low turnout on opening day. Mr. Bowman stated that when he is talking about good catches and fair catches that he was not comparing them to last year because if you were just comparing them to last year you would have to call them poor. Last year was a record year for brown shrimp and when you compare a year like this year to a record year you can say it is poor advised Mr. Bowman. Looking at the last five years, particularly in the central part of the coast, you could say inshore catches were fair. The bottom trawlers did not do as good as the butterfly nets fisherman and the inshore people did not do as good as the persons fishing offshore.

In Zones 1 and 3 the catch was not even fair considering the last five years advised Mr. Bowman. In Zone 3 the brown shrimp season right now, unless things turn around, is going to be a bust. There has been tremendous amounts of freshwater in the system and the recruitment of juveniles that were expected were not seen in the area. The eastern part of the state started off relatively slow. The original recommendations for the season to open in Zone 1 on the 23rd of May was changed to May 30th thus delaying the season a week and opening with Zone 3.

The conditions are starting to improve and the weather pattern has become more normal with the tides in the coastal areas going down to about normal. Salinities in the lower and mid-bay systems are beginning to increase. There is still an opportunity in the central part of the coast as well as in Zone 1 to get some late brown shrimp production but weather conditions are going to have to remain dry and warm for this concluded Mr. Bowman.

Mr. Foret asked Mr. Bowman if the season would have been opened earlier while the big brown shrimp were inside would it had been better. Mr. Bowman answered if we could control the weather and predict events than the department could probably respond. It is

very difficult when you are dealing with a resource such as shrimp when a change in the wind direction can cause them to move out of a bay system or pass in a very unpredictable fashion advised Mr. Bowman. The department made their recommendations and opened the season based upon the information that was collected through the monitoring program and through historical data and trends that have been developed over the years. These methods are and will continue to be refined through time but the department feels like the best recommendations were made at the time pointed out Mr. Bowman. Mr. Foret stated that he personally believes because of the coastal erosion problem that once the shrimp move out of the estuaries they head straight for the Gulf and believes that in the future the department needs to look at this and try to open the season a little earlier. The shrimp are being caught by bigger boats in the Gulf. Mr. Bowman explained that the department is in the process of developing a very comprehensive shrimp management plan and a lot of these things are going to be considered. There will be a number of things that the department will be bringing to the Commission, with the exception of gear, because the Commission has regulatory authority over shrimp.

Mr. Vujnovich explained that in March Barataria Bay was loaded with beautiful shrimp and asked if there was any feasible way, for next year if the shrimp come back, to have a special season for a few days so that the people of Grand Isle area could make a few days of good work? Mr. Bowman advised that the only time they have been able to have these special white shrimp seasons is when there is a group of white shrimp that is separated from the young juvenile brown shrimp and the brown shrimp are less than 50mm in size. Generally the browns and whites in this area are intermixed and the brown shrimp are such a size that they would hang in the net explained Mr. Bowman. This has been looked at in a number of areas in the state and there have been areas over the years that have met the criteria and special seasons have been held. Calcasieu Lake met the criteria this year. Mr. Bowman advised Mr. Vujnovich that the department looks at a number of these things every year and will continue to do so.

Mr. Foret ask Mr. Bowman if the department has enough staff to check the butterfly boats next year in the Grand Isle area and once they start catching shrimp to open the season within 72 hours. Would this be a problem for the department? Mr. Bowman stated that they will look at this over the intervening time period but cannot say right now. Mr. Foret explained that the reason he mentioned this is because the shrimp are moving out faster than they ever did before thanks to coastal erosion.

Colonel Winton Vidrine gave the Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May. Colonel Vidrine reported the following citations for the Regions.

Region I - Minden - 175; most for boating and fishing without a license. Confiscated were six striped bass, two black bass and one alligator skin.

Region II - Monroe - 180; 100 charged with fishing without the resident pole license. No confiscations.

Region III - Alexandria - 307; mostly boating. Confiscated were a rifle, two outboard motors, five pounds of shrimp (roadside truck), 1,500 feet of gill net, 27 bream, dip net, 16 bass, fishing license and four hoop nets.

Region IV - Ferriday - 51; most for fishing without a cane pole license. Confiscated were a couple of hoop nets with leads, and 100 yards of two inch gill nets.

Region V - Lake Charles - 228; 120 for boating violations, 47 for fishing without a license, trawling. There were 570 pounds of crabs confiscated, one alligator head, three trawls, a bass, nine pounds of black drum, 124 pounds of speckled trout, and 254 sacks of oysters.

Region VI - Opelousas - 238; mostly boating violations. Confiscated were two squirrels, cast net, four bass, 53 bream, 10 crates of crabs, three alligators, four frogs and one gill net.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 201; mostly for fishing without a license. No confiscations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 323; 103 for fishing without a license, 36 boating. Confiscated were a dredge, three licenses, 45 trawls, two trawl boards, six butterfly nets, 13 gill nets, 6-7 sacks of oysters, 35 speckled trout, eight black drum, five red fish, 40 pounds of mixed seafood, and 10,475 pounds of shrimp which sold for \$14,347.55.

Region IX - Thibodeaux - 346; 82 for boating, 58 for fishing without a license, 15 no saltwater license, 41 possession for undersized spotted seatrout, 28 trawling in closed season, and 34 for butterflying in closed season. Confiscated were 6,729 pounds of shrimp, 109 boxes of crabs, 300 speckled trout, two alligators, 43 frogs, 20 trawls, 20 butterfly nets, 18 boats, one gun, one commercial fishing license, skimmer net and 14 red drum.

The Oyster Strike Force issued 12 citations. Colonel Vidrine explained that this was from three of the agents. One of the agents had a heart attack and Tommy Candies was unable to obtain his citations and reports but will be picked up in the next few days.

There was a total of 102 citations issued by SWEP. There was 91 for trawling in closed season. Confiscated were 54 trawls, 14,017

pounds of shrimp which sold for \$15,602, and one 1,200 foot gill net which was an unattended net.

The total number of citations issued was 2,163. Twelve warning tickets were given for frogging in closed season. Last year there was a law passed closing the season in April and May.

Mr. McCall asked about the shrimp in Region IX were there was 6,729 pounds of shrimp picked up which was not sold and what had happened to them. Colonel Vidrine stated that some are sold and some are donated to St. Vincent DePaul. Mr. McCall explained that he was just curious why there were two pages where you show selling shrimp and one you do not say what you do with them.

Mr. Jenkins question why there was only one unattended gill net picked up for the whole month statewide and was wondering if much attention is being paid to this sort of thing. Mr. Jenkins pointed out that he ran across six of them last weekend when he was fishing and it seems kind of hard that a whole month can go by across the whole state and find only one unattended net.

Colonel Vidrine stated that the department has spent a lot of time working the trawlers in closed season and with two or three people per parish it is hard to cover the complaints at this time of the year.

Mr. Schneider asked if this was a normal month for boating violations or where they going up? Colonel Vidrine answered that it was probably normal and probably the same amount of cases as the department had last year for this month.

Acting Secretary McInnis added that the accidents and deaths related to accidents have gone down substantially and was going to ask Agent Robert Duthu to make a presentation to the Commission next month.

Mr. McCall added that the department needs to improve upon the way for finding the unattended nets and asked if a better plan could not be found. Colonel Vidrine advised that right after the Lake Charles cases, they went to the eastern part of the state with the help of a helicopter and float plan and they had problems of finding unattended nets. Mr. McCall stated that the word does get out but still in all a better plan needs to be found and don't rely on people tipping them off. Colonel Vidrine advised that they would look at this.

Secretary A. Kell McInnis III gave the Acting Secretary's Report to the Commission. Acting Secretary advised that basically the bills the department has sponsored in the Legislature (about twenty to thirty) all but one have gone to the opposite side of the hall and are moving. Eight or nine bills were moved today in the Senate Committee and they will go on, without amendment, to pass the full

Senate. Most of the bills are noncontroversial and the department is pleased with the progress of these bills but are not pleased with the progress of some of the nondepartmental bills. By July there should be a complete report of what has transpired. Acting Secretary McInnis advised the Commissioners if there was anything in particular that they would like to be kept briefed on to let the department know.

Last year Representative Roach passed a bill creating a credit card system for reporting where the fishermen actually has a card and gets it punched when he makes a sale. There has been some problems in developing some of the reports that the Commission has asked for and the department needs explained Acting Secretary McInnis. The department is certainly trying to get a better grip on this and the meetings that were held with the people this week gave a better indication that the department is more interested in them keeping better track of what is going on. Hopefully the credit card system will go into place in January as initiated.

Along these lines Representative Roach introduced a second bill (charges for licenses and nets) today which would generate a sizable portion of money which will be sufficient to fund the credit card system program added Acting Secretary McInnis.

On the land acquisition program the department has met a time or two with some of the Commissioners who are on the Land Acquisition Committee, members of the Governor's Office, and the Governor's Task Force and all are cooperating on moving this forward with an announcement within the next two days.

In the interim, since the last Commission meeting, Acting Secretary McInnis has had the opportunity to join the other Southeastern Directors to coordinate on problems that are occurring interstate wide and obtain information on reporting systems and the lifetime license.

Representative Theriot has introduced a bill that will create a system on a lifetime license that certainly should provide some additional funding to the department as well. This would be a voluntary system and one is not required to buy a lifetime license unless they want to. The interest from this certainly would generate more than a regular license sale and would help the department out as well.

Acting Secretary McInnis met with Ducks Unlimited and worked with them on their Private Lands Initiative Program and also made contacts for some potential financial support from their foundation which is a new project for acquiring and developing wetland areas for waterfowl. Acting Secretary McInnis was very pleased with their support and the interest that they showed in working with the state on their problems and the acquisition especially.

With all of the problems that the weather has been causing in the last month all of the department employees have been helping people who have been flooded, helping to relocate animals, closing waterways to protect property damage, etc. Unfortunately there has been several drownings which the department has been involved in advised Acting Secretary McInnis. The weather has also caused damage to department property such as bridge damage, road damage, etc. There is federal funding that will be available to help with repair work but not any time in the immediate future. The department is trying to access the damage and will be reporting back to the Commission.

There was a problem on the Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area with the Madam Galbert Weir. This weir was put in at the request of the local Police Jury and sportsmen's organizations. It was recognized that the flow patterns would be altered but it was felt that the department could alter it just the right amount and create good water on one side with the dirty water going to the other side. It ended up diverting water all up into private property and after looking at all alternatives along with mother nature not cooperating the weir had to be removed advised Acting Secretary McInnis. The department will be looking at trying to do something in this area to try and solve the problem that it had before without creating other problems.

There was a bid opening two weeks ago on the New Orleans building and there was a buyer. A bid was received for about \$586,000 and a deposit check was received. No sooner did the applicant get back home he notified the department that they had some problems with the property. The department is working with them to see if the problems are salvageable which had to do with some of the asbestos conditions on the property. Hopefully these have been resolved and the department is also talking with the other bidders to see what might transpire there. It looked good but is no longer stated Acting Secretary McInnis.

Acting Secretary McInnis, at this point in the meeting, asked Mr. Jim Hanifen to come forward and give a brief report on a oil spill down at Cameron Parish earlier this week. Mr. Hanifen advised that an oil spill was reported on Tuesday afternoon from the Cameron area. An offshore platform, approximately three quarters of a mile offshore, seven miles east of the Cameron jetty, collapsed with a 2,800 barrel storage tank on board which held approximately 2,000 barrels of oil and began to leak. The department was informed that oil was approaching the shore in the direction of the Mermentau River. That afternoon and Wednesday morning department staff were on sight at the spill area. The impact was all in the Rutherford Beach area. The department met with DEQ personnel on the scene, observed the area from helicopter and on the ground and it appears the impacts on the beach and wildlife resources were very small. It was light oil and approximately 1,000 barrels were estimated to have been spilt. As of this time approximately forty percent has

evaporated and most of the rest of it has been picked up stated Mr. Hanifen. Wildlife resources in the area that were noted to be impacted were four lightly oiled but not distressed birds. As of 2:30 this afternoon the Coast Guard had approved the cleanup on the beach and the cleanup contractor was still working at loading the oil from the sunken tank at the sight and expects to be completed by midnight tonight. What oil is left out there that is not contained are some small isolated sheens concluded Mr. Hanifen.

Mr. McCall asked if Mr. Hanifen said it was from a leaking tank? Mr. Hanifen explained that it was a tank that was on board a platform, the platform collapsed and broke the pipe that was connecting it.

Acting Secretary McInnis thanked Mr. Hanifen and reported that another incident that took place in Salvador Wildlife Management dealing with Texaco there were fifty barrels of oil which killed over a thousand birds. In working with Texaco, the Fish and Wildlife Service, DEQ, the department, etc. some agreements have been reached and Texaco has been very cooperative in helping with the cleanup and have also agreed to a project that will help this type of thing not happen in the future. There will be a full report on this next month advised Acting Secretary McInnis.

The department has looked very closely at a tract of land up in the northeastern part of the state and there should be an announcement very shortly. The department is very pleased to be working out the final agreements on this piece of property.

Dr. Jerry Clark, Johnnie Tarver and Acting Secretary McInnis met with the people in the Coastal Erosion group. Further studies will be made on the Caernarvon Project and the Bonne Carre' Potential Project. The Commission will be brought up to date as events take place. Caernarvon did not open as yet because of all the influx of freshwater that has been received and as soon as it does they will be working some models and projecting the benefits that not only for Caernarvon but also that these additional freshwater diversion projects may have for the area.

Concluding his report, Acting Secretary stated that if anyone had any questions he would be glad to address them.

Mr. McCall stated that there was a lot of controversy going on in Calcasieu and Beauregard Parishes. There have been some public meetings and more are scheduled in regards to some people owning animals such cheetah, panthers, lions, tigers, bear, etc. (exotic). Mr. McCall asked if the Wildlife and Fisheries got involved in this in any way, shape or form. Acting Secretary McInnis explained that if is an exotic animal the Fish and Wildlife Service takes control of it and the department does not get involved normally. If there is a situation where it becomes a danger to the people in the area sometimes the department will be contacted for assistance. The

department normally does not get involved in those type of non-native animals.

Chairman Jenkins thanked Acting Secretary McInnis for his report and brought before the Commission an item that was a non-agenda item asking for a waiver of rules if the Commission wanted to consider it. The item is on the **Black Bass Limit Rule and the Toledo Bend Reciprocal Agreement, Notices of Intent**. Mr. Pol made a motion that the rules be waived. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schneider and passed unanimously.

Copies of the notices of intent were passed out to the Commission. Dr. Jerry Clark explained what was before the Commission was the notices of intent to begin the Administrative Procedure Act to change the statewide limit for black bass everywhere except the trophy lakes, the quality lakes, Toledo Bend and Caddo. This will have to be done in two different ways because of the reciprocal agreement with Texas. Whenever something is done that affects the reciprocal agreement with Texas it has to be done separately and the department is proposing to make a change on the Sabine River south of Toledo Bend and make that equivalent to the statewide proposal. The notices of intent is for everyone over the next 150 days to consider the possibility of changing the creel limit from 8 fish to 10 fish on the non-managed lakes, nothing else will change advised Dr. Clark.

Mr. Pol questioned if the task force agreed to this. Dr. Clark stated that the task force was polled as to this change and of those that were contacted none have opposed it. Many months ago the department staff was asked about this and there would be no violent objections among the biological staff to make this change advised Dr. Clark.

Mr. Pol made a motion that the Commission accept the notices of intent for the non-managed areas which will increase the creel limit from 8 bass to 10 bass. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vujnovich. Chairman Jenkins asked if there was any public comment on this.

Mr. Dan Bradhoun addressed the Commission. Mr. Bradhoun stated that he thinks that there is a lot more at stake here than whether the limit is going to be raised from 8 fish to 10 fish. The creditability of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is at stake. Mr. Bradhoun advised that he has spent a lot of time over the last four and a half months talking to fishermen, people that own bait houses, tackle shops, etc. The first thing that anybody should do if something is going to affect over 500,000 fishermen is to get input from the public. People that Mr. Bradhoun works with filled out the forms that were sent out asking about limit, size, etc. and sent them back in and Mr. Bradhoun stated that these were at the Wildlife and Fisheries somewhere but were not even important enough for somebody to look at and see what they are

about. This was not important, but it was important enough to get the bass management plan in as soon as possible and Mr. Bradhoun advised that he did not know what the rush was because the bass fishery in Louisiana is not going to die in a period of a year. The controversy that is raging right now was because the public input was not so. What the limit could be would depend on what body of water you are fishing stated Mr. Bradhoun. In the plan the LDWF requested that they be able to change from body of water to body of water and this is what the public says that Mr. Bradhoun has talked to. Mr. Bradhoun has yet to find a person, except one but is sure there is more, that does not belong to a bass club or is a tournament fisherman that is for the bass management plan as it stands now especially lowering the 15 fish creel limit and knows a lot of people that fish tournaments and that are a member of the bass clubs including the ALBC. Many of these people's names are on petitions to go back to the 15 limit. There are only 3,600 members of the ALBC in Louisiana which are most of the members of the bass clubs in Louisiana. Mr. Bradhoun stated that he thinks there are about 10,000 people maximum out of 500,000 licensed freshwater fishermen that are for reducing the creel and if there is a biological reason for reducing the creel limit he would like to know what it is. There are a lot of people who are trying to find out this, was a study done, a certain study, a good study, or can a study be done to reduce the creel limit over the whole state. Mr. Bradhoun stated that he does not think an assessment was made of what the people really wanted and does not know why the department wanted it so bad. Senator Sevario told Mr. Bradhoun yesterday if there had not been a single petition signed that he has received enough phone calls that he knows the people in his area want a 15 fish limit and he would not object if his bill was amended to go to a 15 fish limit based on the input that he is getting from his people. Mr. Bradhoun asked where did the number come from to reduce it to ten, why not twelve, fifteen, or twenty. What the majority of people in Louisiana want should be what they get and if they do not care for a bigger fish and if they don't want to pay the price to get a bigger fish and if they are satisfied with a two, three, four and five, etc. pound fish then give it to them stated Mr. Bradhoun. Mr. Bradhoun questioned why the statewide slot limit was not adopted; apparently there was enough public objection to the statewide slot limit that it was not adopted. This was suppose to be one of the major tools to raise the size of bass assuming people wanted to pay the price to have it raised. Mr. Bradhoun does not think this was what the people wanted. In 99 percent of Louisiana's waters there is a reduced creel limit standing alone for which there is no reason. If there is a reason Mr. Bradhoun wishes someone would come forward and tell him what it is. Concluding Mr. Bradhoun suggested that the department should set the limit back to 15 and if a study is done that shows it should be lowered then do it.

*Due to a mechanical failure in the recording system the following agenda items were not recorded and the minutes had to be transcribed from notes taken during the meeting. These agenda items are: 1) Continuation-Black Bass; 2) Lottery System for Thistlewaite; 3) Set September Meeting Date; 4) Public Comments.

Chairman Jenkins commented on Mr. Bradhound's comments and advised that there were numerous public hearings all over the state on the black bass plan and also the public had the opportunity to attend the Commission meetings and believes the Commission and department gave the people what they wanted.

Chairman Jenkins called for a vote on the motion made by Mr. Pol and seconded by Mr. Vujnovich. The motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the notice of intent is made a part of the record)

NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING

SECTION 123. Chicot Lake Black Bass Harvest Restriction

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:325(C).
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 13:364 (June 1988), L.R. 16:38 (January 1990), Repealed L.R. 17:277 (March 1991), Repromulgated in S. 149 of this Chapter.

SECTION 149. BLACK BASS REGULATIONS-DAILY TAKE AND SIZE LIMITS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish a statewide daily take (creel limit) of 10 fish for black bass (Micropterus spp.). The possession limit shall be the same as the daily take on water and twice the daily take off water.

In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following waterbodies:

Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish) and False River (Pointe Coupee' Parish):

Size Limit: 15 inch - 19 inch slot
Daily Take: 8 fish - of which no more than 2 fish
may exceed 19 inches maximum total
length.*

Possession Limit: On Water - Same as daily take
Off Water - Twice the daily take

A 15 - 19 inch slot limit means that it is illegal
to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total
length is between 15 inches and 19 inches,
both measurements inclusive.

Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes), Black
Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Caney Creek Lake (Jackson
Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake
(Caddo Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and
Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

Size Limit: 14 - 17 inch slot
Daily Take: 8 fish - of which no more than 4 fish
may exceed 17 inches maximum total length.

Possession Limit: On Water - Same as daily take
Off Water - Twice the daily take

A 14 - 17 inch slot means that it is illegal to keep
or possess a black bass whose maximum total length
is between 14 inches and 17 inches, both
measurements inclusive.

* Maximum total length - The distance in a straight line from the
tip of the snout to the most posterior point of the depressed
caudal fin as measured with mouth closed on a flat surface.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed
rule to the following address before August 30, 1991: Bennie J.
Fontenot, Jr., Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6
(25)(a), 325 (c), 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 14:364 (June
1988), Amended L.R. 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated L.R. 17:489
(May 1991), Amended L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman

(The full text of the notice of intent is made a part of the record)

RULE
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING

SECTION 110. TOLEDO BEND RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby amends the Joint Louisiana/Texas Toledo Bend and Caddo Lake Sportfishing Reciprocal Agreement that became effective April 1, 1991.

The daily creel limit, (daily take), for black bass (Micropterus spp.) is set at 8 fish and the minimum total length is set at 14 inches in Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), 325 (c), 326.3, 673.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission L.R. 14:548 (August 1988), Amended L.R. 17:278 (March 1991), Amended L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman

At this point in the meeting Mr. Bateman asked to address the Commission. Mr. Bateman asked that the Commission authorize Acting Secretary McInnis to consider development of a Lottery System for Deer Hunting on the Thistlewaite Wildlife Management Area.

Chairman Jenkins called for a vote to waive the rules to take action on the lottery system for deer hunting on the Thistlewaite Wildlife Management Area. A motion was made by Mr. Pol that the rules be waived and was seconded by Mr. McCall. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Schneider that the Commission authorize Acting Secretary McInnis to proceed with development of a lottery system for deer hunting on the Thistlewaite Wildlife Management

Area. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously.

The Date for the September Meeting was set for September 5, 1991 to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Quail Drive.

Chairman Jenkins called for Public Comments. Comments were made on the Proposed 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons.

Mr. Don Dubuc, Manderville, Louisiana, addressed the Commission. Mr. Dubuc represented several hunting clubs in St. Tammany Parish. Mr. Dubuc requested that the Commission consider, for the next meeting, moving a portion from the proposed new Area 6 for deer hunting to Area 1. In the new proposal, it is requested that Area 6 be extended up Highway 11 to Pearl River, down Highway 41 to Talisheek, down Highway 435 to Abita Springs, and down Highway 59 to Interstate 12. These clubs lease approximately 60,000 acres of land in this area and this would allow the hunting clubs an additional 17 days for members to hunt with dogs. Concluding Mr. Dubuc asked that a motion be made for consideration so that when the final regulations are set at the July meeting this will be considered.

Mr. Pol made a motion that this be referred to the Hunting Regulations Committee and that they report back to the Commission at the next meeting on their recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously.

There being no other business Chairman Jenkins called for a motion for Adjournment of the June 6, 1991, Commission meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pol for adjournment and seconded by Mr. McCall. The motion passed unanimously.



A. Kell McInnis III
Acting Secretary

AKM:sb

*Draft
ASAP*

MINUTES OF MEETING

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 1991

Chairman James H. Jenkins, Jr. presiding.

Thursday, June, 1991

Houston Foret
Bert Jones
Norman McCall
Warren Pol
Jeff Schneider
Pete Vujnovich

Acting Secretary A. Kell McInnis III was also present.

*This also occurred at
end of meeting - at pg. 20.
Sleep*

*Due to a mechanical failure in the recording system the following agenda items were not recorded and the minutes had to be transcribed from notes taken during the meeting. These agenda items are: 1) Approval of Minutes; 2) Boise Cascade WMA Lease Renewals and Recognition; 3) Turkey Hunting Season Report and Drawing for Shotguns; 4) Recommended Changes in Notice of Intent 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons; and 5) Habitat Conservation Division Review.

Chairman Jenkins called for a motion to adopt the **Minutes of the May 2, 1991, Commission Meeting**. A motion was made by Mr. McCall and seconded by Mr. Vujnovich. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dave Morrison presented for signature the **Boise Cascade WMA Lease Renewals**. Mr. Morrison introduced Mr. John Gerber representing Boise Cascade and explained that these leases are a renewal of Boise's commitment to the department. Currently the leases are in excess of 93,000 acres to the department on a free lease basis. These lands are associated with three wildlife management areas, which are Boise Vernon, Sabine and West Bay located in west and southwest Louisiana. Boise lands have been part of the wildlife management area system since the 1950's. These agreements give the department the right to manage the wildlife resources and create long term management committed between the department and Boise Cascade. The leases are based on annual renewals of five years terms with the effective date of the first installment beginning July 1, 1991 and extending through June 30, 1991. New agreements assure the existence of these important areas. The department would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude and commend Boise Cascade for their commitment to the sportsmen of Louisiana. Without this support the department's wildlife management area system would not be as successful as it is concluded Mr. Morrison. At this point during

minutes

the meeting Mr. Gerber and Acting Secretary McInnis signed the lease renewals and pictures were taken for the "Louisiana Conservationist" magazine.

Mr. Hugh Bateman gave the **1991 Turkey Hunting Season Report** and the **Shot Gun Drawing** was held. Mr. Bateman reported that 215 turkeys had been captured and released in other areas of the state. With the help of the National Turkey Federation and local clubs 18 turkeys were captured in Alabama to help support trapping efforts in Louisiana. The weather had quite an effect on the turkey hunting season this year. There were approximately 1,317 gobblers taken by hunters to the check stations during the spring turkey season. This was down 200 from last year. Mr. Bateman stated that because of the heavy rains the spring turkey hatch in the bottomland hardwoods was probably destroyed with the hatch being greatly reduced in the hills. The department does not expect second nesting attempts to be successful advised Mr. Bateman.

Acting Secretary McInnis asked Mr. Bateman about the new areas that opened up for turkey hunting this year. Mr. Bateman explained that because of the turkey restocking program that for the first time in five years there was a spring turkey hunting season on Bodcau Wildlife Management Area along with private lands that had also been closed. There were 66 wild turkeys taken off of Bodcau.

Mr. Jones asked about the outlook for next year's season. Mr. Bateman explained the because of the effects the weather have had on the hatch there could be some changes for next year.

At this point during the meeting the drawing took place for the shotguns. The hunters who brought a turkey to the check stations were eligible to win one of the three shotguns that were donated by Tri-Parish, Cenla and North Central chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Mr. John Dawsee from Cenla drew the winning numbers. The winners were Mr. T.W. Thompson, Pointe Coupee Parish, Mr. Steve Gottschalk, Hammond, Louisiana and Mr. Tommy Smith, Mansfield, Louisiana. Concluding Mr. Bateman thanked all of the Wild Turkey Federation Clubs for their time and donations.

Mr. Hugh Bateman presented the **Recommended Changes in the Notice of Intent on 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons**. Mr. Bateman presented to the Commission three options to be considered on recommendations for changes. These options were:

- A. Bucks only hunting on the Big Lake, Bouef and Saline Wildlife Management Areas (November 29, 30 and December 1, 1991). Establish self-clearing stations on these areas to obtain hunter participation and success information. Convert the Thistlewaite area to a pre-application lottery system for either-sex gun hunts.

B. Retain either-sex deer hunting regulations as recommended in the original notice of intent.

C. Complete closure of all deer hunting on the Big Lake, Boeuf and Saline Wildlife areas.

Mr. Bateman explained that these were the three recommendations being made and that the Commission did not have to make their decision until the July Commission meeting.

Mr. Jones asked about option A and the surrounding areas around the wildlife management areas. A short discussion followed and it was noted by Mr. Bateman that this same issue had been discussed by his staff prior to the meeting. There would be potential closed areas (private lands) around the wildlife management areas with option A. Mr. Reggie Wycoff, District Supervisor, Ferriday, Louisiana, has maps showing the areas that could be affected advised Mr. Bateman. This would also affect the bow hunting season and the muzzleloader season. Mr. Jones advised that he had maps showing the surrounding areas that could be affected. The two maps were compared.

Mr. Bateman gave other changes. One change involved the rabbit season on Atakapas, Grassy Lake, and Pomme de Terre Wildlife Management Areas which would change rabbit dog season dates to January 25 - February 2. Area 6 deer dog season closes January 19 and this will prevent potential conflict on the WMA's. Another was move the turkey season to March 28 - April 15 on Grassy Lake. Season reduced by 7 days and moved earlier to correspond with Area A opening.

Mr. Schneider asked how long would this program (Option A) be in effect until results are seen. Mr. Bateman advised that it needed to be reviewed on a year to year basis. Mr. Schneider asked if there was any kind of program in the department to address this issue. Mr. Bateman explained what the department would do and how the program would work. Concluding Mr. Bateman asked if there were any questions.

There being none Chairman Jenkins asked if there were any comments from the audience.

Mr. Richard Daigre, Alexandria, Louisiana, addressed the Commission. Mr. Daigre stated that a long range plan for the management of the deer herds was needed for Big Lake, Boeuf and Saline as these areas do not have the populations and asked that there be a three year closure on these areas including Sicily Island Hills. After further comments by Mr. Daigre on the process of the Commission considering the proposed recommendations he asked when would the public be notified of the Commission's decision. This process was explained by Acting Secretary McInnis to Mr. Daigre.

Mr. Pol made a motion that the hunting season recommendations be referred to the Commission Hunting Season Committee for consideration and that they have a report at least three days prior to the July Commission meeting. The recommendations will be made at the July Commission meeting for consideration by full Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schneider and passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnnie Tarver gave a report and slide presentation on the **Habitat Conservation Division**. A brief history of the program was given and it was pointed out that this program dated back to the Federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1946. The division encompasses the Environmental Section, Natural Heritage Program and Non-Game Program. The goal of the division is to the maximum extent possible conserve fish and wildlife habitat throughout the State of Louisiana and its coastal waters. Objectives of the division are: annually prevent or mitigate the destruction of wetlands and other valuable wildlife habitat by causing permit applicants to reduce damages and mitigate the unavoidable loss of those habitats through the creation or replacement of habitats of equal value; implement the Scenic River Act for protection and management of the Scenic River System by June 30, 1995; insure that no rare, threatened, or endangered species or habitats are lost from the state; and raise public awareness and promote conservation and management of all nongame wildlife species.

Several committees that this division participates on are: Cameron-Creole Watershed; Barataria-Terrebonne NEP; Governor's Wetland Task Force; Black Bear Conservation Committee; International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Mussel Task Force; Land Acquisition Task Force; Government Wetland Task Force; Scenic Rivers Task Force; Amite River Basin Interagency Committee; Governor's Task Force on flood Prevention and Mitigation; Society of American Foresters RCW Task Force; Governor's Capitol Lake Task Force; LA Department Agriculture and Forestry Stewardship Forestry Program and Endangered Species Task Force; DEQ's LEAP 2000 Comparative Risk Program; and LDOTD's Project Wildflower.

Mr. Tarver concluded by saying that in January 1990 the Responsive Management Survey was released. It indicated that 48 percent of the people in the state are active non-consumptive users of wildlife and 90 percent of the people in the state are in favor of a program expansion requiring raising new revenues. Sixty percent viewed the Habitat Conservation Division favorably and 91 percent supported the expansion of the Endangered Species Management program. Ninety percent supported the expansion of the Scenic Streams program; 83 percent supported the expansion of information on attracting wildlife.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Blue Watson, Ecological Studies Section Program Manager in the Habitat Conservation Division, gave

a brief overview of his program as to where they are, where they need to be, etc. Mr. Watson, pointed out on the slide, a representation on a log scale, the number of permits reviewed last year and permits projected to review this year. There are approximately 1,000 permits per year, per individual for review in the section. Due to the work plan the section has committed itself to attempt to look at least 50 percent of the project. If this is done, based on the number of projects that are reviewed a year, it would require six additional staff members. You are looking at six man years per year to be able to cover 50 percent of the projects that are reviewed advised Mr. Watson. The additional responsibilities would require an additional two staff members bringing the total requirement to be able to meet the current mandates and current load in the Ecological Study Section to a total of eight. The Scenic Rivers program requires a great deal of surveillance of streams, enforcement of the act, permit site inspections, complaint investigations, permit review, rivers surveys, permit issuance, and development of management plans on all streams. To accomplish this task five staff members would be required to handle this load and would be a full time job. Currently the section has two staff members. The section is surprisingly successful in a lot of the things that they are doing in permit review and issuance. Problems areas are where the staff members do not get out in the field to look at sites. The section is able to visit all of the major project sites but there are many applications that are being received that do need a field investigation and the section is not able to accomplish this concluded Mr. Watson.

Chairman Jenkins asked if anyone had any questions. There being none Mr. Tarver advised that if there are any of the programs the Commissioners are interested in they would be happy to put a slide presentation together for them at their convenience.

A Notice of Intent on 22 Inches Minimum Total Size Limit for Commercial Harvest of Bowfin was presented by Dr. Jerry Clark. Dr. Clark reported that a year ago a member of the Legislature was interesting in passing this management system for bowfin. A resolution was passed requiring the department to do a study on bowfin and report back with recommendations. This was done and the recommendations were given to the legislator and he is currently running with a bill in the Legislature to do all the things that the department is proposing in the notice of intent. The bill has gone through the House Natural Resources Committee, through the House, and through the Senate Natural Resources Committee this morning. It is the department's preference that this bill not pass because if it does it will remove the Commission's regulatory authority over this species advised Dr. Clark. The Senate Natural Resources Committee was told this morning that the Commission was going to be provided with the notice of intent this afternoon and there was very serious interest in what the Commission was about to do. Dr. Clark believes if the Commission goes forward with this

that legislation may in fact be stopped which is the hope of the department. This recommendation is the result of the department's research and is the biologist's recommendation for managing the bowfin fishery especially as it relates to the roe fishery which has developed rapidly in the state. The notice of intent was presented to the Commission for approval. ~~There would be~~ a 22 inch minimum total size limit on the commercial harvest of bowfin and adopt a rule that says that no commercial fisherman may be in his boat with bowfin eggs or roe unless they are naturally attached to the fish.

It would establish

A motion was made by Mr. McCall to adopt the notice of intent on the bowfish fishery. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the notice of intent is made part of the record)

**NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

**PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE
CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING**

SECTION 153. BOWFIN MINIMUM SIZE REGULATIONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish a statewide 22" minimum size limit on bowfin (Amia calva) harvested for commercial purposes.

In addition, it is the Commission's intent to prohibit commercial fishermen, while on the water, from possessing bowfin eggs that are not naturally connected to a whole fish.

The intent of this regulation is to provide bowfin with adequate protection as the roe fishery for this species expands. Research on this species indicates that the majority of 22" female bowfin have spawned at least one time.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to the following address before : Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr., Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), 326.3

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins
Chairman

Dr. Jerry Clark proceeded to give a **Report on the Commercial Spotted Seatrout Quota**. Dr. Clark handed out the monthly report on the commercial spotted seatrout monthly landings and explained that the first section of data was the monthly landings where the fishing year is 1985-86 through 1990-91 and the second section of data was the accumulative landings for the same time period by month. The current estimate of the current status of the commercial quota through the end of May, preliminary estimate, is 958,467 pounds. Chairman Jenkins asked if a closure date could be forecasted. Dr. Clark advised that the numbers were ran through the regression model and it indicated that it was possible that the season would stay open all summer and the quota would not be met. Traditionally the summer season is not a very high harvest level for spotted seatrout. Dr. Clark pointed out that the computer model is based upon historical fishing levels of activity that most of which were prior to the quota and because there is a quota probably the fishing pressure and fishing efforts have been shifted. Whether or not the relatively low levels of spotted seatrout harvest that was seen in the past will continue the department does not know. Dr. Clark stated if he had to guess, he would guess that they would not but right now they do not have a prediction for when it would close.

Mr. Pol asked Dr. Clark if he believed this was because of a shortage of trout, shortage of fishermen. Dr. Clark advised that he believes that at least in part they are still working off the relatively low levels of harvest that were seen in the early months of the season, starting back in September, October, November, and December of 1990 when the fishery was still under the impacts of the freeze. Dr. Clark does not think that the current fishing pressure is associated with the lack of fish. People are seeing spotted seatrout in the marsh in places where they have not been seen for 14 or 15 month. In answering Mr. Pol's question Dr. Clark advised that he guessed his answer was no, not now.

Mr. Jenkins asked about the catch in December 1990-91 as compared to December 1989-90 which shows less than half as much this year as the year before but moving to the next month, January, shows about three times as much this year as the year before and if this said anything. Dr. Clark answered he was not sure but if you look through the data in other years, other times and other places you

will see the same thing. There always has been relatively high variance in the monthly reported landings.

Mr. Pol asked what would have to be done to get a proper count and does Dr. Clark feel like the department is getting the right information. Dr. Clark stated that the department would have to have a lot more resources to put into this and a continuous ongoing auditing program would have to be begun along with a continuous ongoing law enforcement program ~~which are~~ very expensive, time consuming activities. Mr. Pol asked if it was known that some wholesalers have under reported. Dr. Clark answered certainly. Mr. Pol asked if there has been prosecution. Dr. Clark advised that this morning he received a memo on a group of activities that have taken place between the Office of Fisheries and Law Enforcement over the last month and a half. The department has attempted to visit many, if not most of the wholesale, retail dealers that have reported spotted seatrout landings over the last couple of years. Dr. Clark proceeded to read the memo.

"Between April 29, 1991, and June 6, 1991, twenty eight fish houses had purchase receipts for spotted seatrout audited for the period from September 1990 to March 1991. These houses accounted for approximately seventy five percent of the total reported landings for spotted seatrout during this period. Of the 196 comparisons between monthly dealer's reports submitted to the department as per our rules and the statute and the audit of the purchase receipts thirty four, or seventeen percent, were unanalyzable because of lack of records, purchase receipts not available at the time of the audit or the department having no dealer report accessible. In seventy two, or thirty seven percent, of the cases figures reported matched those audited at the fish houses. Ninety two or forty seven percent there were discrepancies. Of those ninety two discrepancies, forty one were actually over reported ranging from two pounds to 5,603 pounds while fifty one were under reported ranging from two pounds to 9,350 pounds. Fourteen of these discrepancies above and below were more than a thousand pounds. Seven of which were under and seven of which were over. Monthly discrepancies ranged from 9,383 pounds under reported for the total package to 4,635 pounds over reported. During the seven month time period that was audited a total of 16,919 pounds were under reported which is about 2.1 percent of the total reported landings. Quality of purchase records kept at these fish houses range from excellent to very poor. Major irregularities included lack of species identified, lack of a fisherman or a commercial license number being recorded on a ticket, no date and simply poor organization. Major discrepancies on the monthly report were traced to the fact that dealers reported sales figures that included fish purchased from other wholesale retail dealers as well as those purchased directly from commercial fishermen."

Colonel Winton Vidrine advised that Enforcement is working with department biologists and according to his records twenty two seafood houses were checked with fifteen in order, seven had problems, four will definitely be given citations and three are questionable because their accountants had their records.

Mr. Pol advised that both he and Mr. Jenkins have received complaints, one from a former member of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, from the Grand Isle area that there are sports fishermen catching and selling fish. A lot of them are catching undersize fish. Colonel Vidrine asked if the informant had the information as to what houses were buying the fish. Mr. Pol advised that he thinks the gentleman would be happy to talk to Colonel Vidrine and advised that in the Grand Isle area there were forty one citations issued this past month for undersize speckled trout.

Mr. McCall asked if anything was being done about fisherman coming at night into a remote area and loading trout into refrigerated trucks and going out of town with them, with some leaving the state. Does the department know how many are being trucked out of the state? Dr. Clark answered that there was no part of that activity as part of the report. Mr. McCall believes that there is a lot of cheating going on and the department and Commission are not getting the full report on the fish. There are a lot more being caught than are showing up on the records and paperwork. Dr. Clark stated that he does not believe that there has been any cases made on this in the last twelve months or so. Mr. McCall advised that he has been told that there are fish being caught in Calcasieu Lake, being loaded into refrigerated trucks (two different areas) and the trucks leave. Where they go Mr. McCall does not know. He has also been told that there are refrigerated trucks coming from out-of-state with people with cash in their pockets making the remark "he stays until his truck is full of fish or he runs out of money". Mr. McCall stated that what he is saying is that from the reports he is hearing and the people he is talking to that there is a lot of fish being caught that are not reported and if all the fish that were caught were reported the department would most probably be over the quota right now. Mr. McCall pointed out that he was not saying just commercial fishermen and was sure that there are guilty parties in the sports fishing group where they are selling sport fish and when you add all of this up together Mr. McCall believes that the quota has already been met. Dr. Clark advised that whenever you have a quota you have an incentive to do exactly what Mr. McCall is talking about and this is an inherent part of a quota system. Mr. McCall asked what could be done about it. Dr. Clark stated that his answer is always the same, the only thing you can do is that you have got to continuously audit the books, continuously have law enforcement, undercover work at the fish houses, etc. This is a very difficult thing to do to make these kinds of cases.

Mr. Foret asked what would you have to do to take the quota out and just open the season from December 1 to May 1. Dr. Clark pointed out that the Commission would have to get a law changed to give them regulatory authority and advised that there is a bill in the legislature to give the Commission regulatory authority.

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Mr. Pol asked how did the bill stand in the legislature. Dr. Clark answered that it was his understanding it will be heard in the House Natural Resources Committee next Wednesday and it has already going through the Senate Committee with five votes against the bill in the Senate.

Mr. McCall made a motion that for the July meeting Secretary McInnis develop a plan which outlines a method to enforce the reporting of the quota correctly, including proper enforcement of the total reporting requirements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.

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Mr. William E. Cast IV, President of the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, addressed the Commission on Item 10 of the agenda, Seismic Fees, which was struck from today's agenda because of lack of representation from the companies. Mr. Cast stated that they are very much interested in this because of the seed grounds and asked if there was some explanation why this keeps on being pulled from the agenda. Chairman Jenkins advised that they have had several meetings with the industry representatives and the requirements of the information needed to furnish to evaluate what they are requesting has never been furnished. Until they can furnish this there is not much sense in coming before the Commission. Mr. Cast asked what the rules and regulations were right now and what were they looking at changing it to. Chairman Jenkins advised that a copy of the present rules and regulations could be obtained if Mr. Cast would like to look at them. What is going to be proposed deals with fee schedule changes. Mr. Cast stated that they were just wondering if the state has the money to reduce this and keep up the grounds. The seed grounds have been deplored for the last two or three years and there is going to be less money for the same amount of damages going over them and this is what they are concerned about advised Mr. Cast. Where is the state going to come up with this money? Chairman Jenkins advised that there will be a hearing and those questions will be answered.

Mr. Phil Bowman gave a **Informational Shrimp Report on the Season's Opening**. Mr. Bowman reported that the environmental conditions that were reported during the last Commission meeting held in New Orleans in May continued to deteriorate through the middle and into the end of May. There was a tremendous amount of rainfall and the tides were above two to four feet above normal in Zone 2 when the season opened. The conditions were not very conducive to shrimp growth.

The special two day shrimp season in Calcasieu Lake was an excellent move and during that particular time an estimated 75,000 pounds of 31-35 to 36-40 count white shrimp were harvested. This was a benefit to the people in that area as well as the State of Louisiana.

When the season opened in the central part of the coast there were relatively strong south and southeast winds with two to four foot tides above normal. There were a fair number of shrimp but were small and continued through the opening to two to three weeks of the season. Two observations relative to the opening in Zone 2 as compared to the past five years were the absence of medium size brown shrimp which are normally found in the lower bays and near offshore waters when the season opens. Also a significant reduction in effort was observed which was probably a combination of a couple of factors. License sales this year for trawl licenses were down substantially as compared to last year. This coupled with flooded launches and anticipation of only small shrimp being available probably contributed to the low turnout on opening day. Mr. Bowman stated that when he is talking about good catches and fair catches that he was not comparing them to last year because if you were just comparing them to last you would have to call them poor. Last year was a record year for brown shrimp and when you compare a year like this year to a record year you can say it is poor advised Mr. Bowman. Looking at the last five years, particularly in the central part of the coast, you could say inshore catches were fair. The bottom trawlers did not do as good as the butterfly nets fisherman and the inshore people did not do as good as the persons fishing offshore.

In Zones 1 and 3 the catch was not even fair considering the last five years advised Mr. Bowman. In Zone 3 the brown shrimp season right now, unless things turn around, is going to be a bust. There has been tremendous amounts of freshwater in the system and the recruitment of juveniles that were expected were not seen in the area. The eastern part of the state started off relatively slow. The original recommendations for the season to open in Zone 1 on the 23rd of May was changed to May 30th thus delaying the season a week and opening with Zone 3.

The conditions are starting to improve and the weather pattern has become more normal with the tides in the coastal areas going down to about normal. Salinities in the lower and mid-bay systems are beginning to increase. There is still an opportunity in the central part of the coast as well as in Zone 1 to get some late brown shrimp production but weather conditions are going to have to remain dry and warm for this concluded Mr. Bowman.

Mr. Foret asked Mr. Bowman if the season would have been opened earlier while the big brown shrimp were inside would it had been better. Mr. Bowman answered if we could control the weather and predict events than the department could probably respond. It is

very difficult when you are dealing with a resource such as shrimp when a change in the wind direction can cause them to move out of a bay system or pass in a very unpredictable fashion advised Mr. Bowman. The department made their recommendations and opened the season based upon the information that was collected through the monitoring program and through historical data and trends that have been developed over the years. These methods are and will continue to be refined through time but the department feels like the best recommendations were made at the time pointed out Mr. Bowman. Mr. Foret stated that he personally believes because of the coastal erosion problem that once the shrimp move out of the estuaries they head straight for the Gulf and believes that in the future the department needs to look at this and try to open the season a little earlier. The shrimp are being caught by bigger boats in the Gulf. Mr. Bowman explained that the department is in the process of developing a very comprehensive shrimp management plan and a lot of these things are going to be considered. There will be a number of things that the department will be bringing to the Commission, with the exception of gear, because the Commission has regulatory authority over shrimp.

Mr. Vujnovich explained that in March Barataria Bay was loaded with beautiful shrimp and asked if there was any feasible way, for next year if the shrimp come back, to have a special season for a few days so that the people of Grand Isle area could make a few days of good work? Mr. Bowman advised that the only time they have been able to have these special white shrimp seasons is when there is a group of white shrimp that is separated from the young juvenile brown shrimp and the brown shrimp are less than 50mm in size. Generally the browns and whites in this area are intermixed and the brown shrimp are such a size that they would hang in the net explained Mr. Bowman. This has been looked at in a number of areas in the state and there have been areas over the years that have met the criteria and special seasons have been held. Calcasieu Lake met the criteria this year. Mr. Bowman advised Mr. Vujnovich that the department looks at a number of these things every year and will continue to do so.

Mr. Foret ask Mr. Bowman if the department has enough staff to check the butterfly boats next year in the Grand Isle area and once they start catching shrimp to open the season within 72 hours. Would this be a problem for the department? Mr. Bowman stated that they will look at this over the intervening time period but cannot say right now. Mr. Foret explained that the reason he mentioned this is because the shrimp are moving out faster than they ever did before thanks to coastal erosion.

Colonel Winton Vidrine gave the **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May**. Colonel Vidrine reported the following citations for the Regions.

Region I - Minden - 175; most for boating and fishing without a license. Confiscated were six striped bass, two black bass and one alligator skin.

Region II - Monroe - 180; 100 charged with fishing without the resident pole license. No confiscations.

Region III - Alexandria - 307; mostly boating. Confiscated were a rifle, two outboard motors, five pounds of shrimp (roadside truck), 1,500 feet of gill net, 27 bream, dip net, 16 bass, fishing license and four hoop nets.

Region IV - Ferriday - 51; most for fishing without a cane pole license. Confiscated were a couple of hoop nets with leads, and 100 yards of two inch gill nets.

Region V - Lake Charles - 228; 120 for boating violations, 47 for fishing without a license, trawling. There were 570 pounds of crabs confiscated, one alligator head, three trawls, a bass, nine pounds of black drum, 124 pounds of speckled trout, and 254 sacks of oysters.

Region VI - Opelousas - 238; mostly boating violations. Confiscated were two squirrels, cast net, four bass, 53 bream, 10 crates of crabs, three alligators, four frogs and one gill net.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 201; mostly for fishing without a license. No confiscations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 323; 103 for fishing without a license, 36 boating. Confiscated were a dredge, three licenses, 45 trawls, two trawl boards, six butterfly nets, 13 gill nets, 6-7 sacks of oysters, 35 speckled trout, eight black drum, five red fish, 40 pounds of mixed seafood, and 10,475 pounds of shrimp which sold for \$14,347.55.

Region IX - Thibodeaux - 346; 82 for boating, 58 for fishing without a license, 15 no saltwater license, 41 possession for undersized spotted seatrout, 28 trawling in closed season, and 34 for butterflying in closed season. Confiscated were 6,729 pounds of shrimp, 109 boxes of crabs, 300 speckled trout, two alligators, 43 frogs, 20 trawls, 20 butterfly nets, 18 boats, one gun, one commercial fishing license, skimmer net and 14 red drum.

The Oyster Strike Force issued 12 citations. Colonel Vidrine explained that this was from three of the agents. One of the agents had a heart attack and Tommy Candies was unable to obtain his citations and reports but will be picked up in the next few days.

There was a total of 102 citations issued by SWEP. There was 91 for trawling in closed season. Confiscated were 54 trawls, 14,017

pounds of shrimp which sold for \$15,602, and one 1,200 foot gill net which was an unattended net.

The total number of citations issued was 2,163. Twelve warning tickets were given for frogging in closed season. Last year there was a law passed closing the season in April and May.

Mr. McCall asked about the shrimp in Region IX were there was 6,729 pounds of shrimp picked up which was not sold and what had happened to them. Colonel Vidrine stated that some are sold and some are donated to St. Vincent DePaul. Mr. McCall explained that he was just curious why there were two pages where you show selling shrimp and one you do not say what you do with them.

Mr. Jenkins question why there was only one unattended gill net picked up for the whole month statewide and was wondering if much attention is being paid to this sort of thing. Mr. Jenkins pointed out that he ran across six of them last weekend when he was fishing and it seems kind of hard that a whole month can go by across the whole state and find only one unattended net.

Colonel Vidrine stated that the department has spent a lot of time working the trawlers in closed season and with two or three people per parish it is hard to cover the complaints at this time of the year.

Mr. Schneider asked if this was a normal month for boating violations or where they going up? Colonel Vidrine answered that it was probably normal and probably the same amount of cases as the department had last year for this month.

Acting Secretary McInnis added that the accidents and deaths related to accidents have gone down substantially and was going to ask Agent Robert Duthu to make a presentation to the Commission next month.

Mr. McCall added that the department needs to improve upon the way for finding the unattended nets and asked if a better plan could not be found. Colonel Vidrine advised that right after the Lake Charles cases, they went to the eastern part of the state with the help of a helicopter and float plan and they had problems of finding unattended nets. Mr. McCall stated that the word does get out but still in all a better plan needs to be found and don't rely on people tipping them off. Colonel Vidrine advised that they would look at this.

Secretary A. Kell McInnis III gave the **Acting Secretary's Report** to the Commission. Acting Secretary advised that basically the bills the department has sponsored in the Legislature (about twenty to thirty) all but one have gone to the opposite side of the hall and are moving. Eight or nine bills were moved today in the Senate Committee and they will go on, without amendment, to pass the full

Senate. Most of the bill are noncontroversial and the department is please with the progress of these bills but are not pleased with the progress of some of the nondepartmental bills. By July there should be a complete report of what has transpired. Acting Secretary McInnis advised the Commissioners if there was anything in particular that they would like to be kept briefed on to let the department know.

Last year Representative Roach passed a bill creating a credit card system for reporting where the fishermen actually has a card and gets it punched when he makes a sale. There has been some problems in developing some of the reports that the Commission has asked for and the department needs explained Acting Secretary McInnis. The department is certainly trying to get a better grip on this and the meetings that were held with the people this week gave a better indication that the department is more interested in them keeping better track of what is going on. Hopefully the credit card system will go into place in January as initiated.

Along these lines Representative Roach introduced a second bill (charges for licenses and nets) today which would generate a sizable portion of money which will be sufficient to fund the credit card system program added Acting Secretary McInnis.

On the land acquisition program the department has met a time or two with some of the Commissioners who are on the Land Acquisition Committee, members of the Governor's Office, and the Governor's Task Force and all are cooperating on moving this forward with an announcement within the next two days.

In the interim, since the last Commission meeting, Acting Secretary McInnis has had the opportunity to join the other Southeastern Directors to coordinate on problems that are occurring interstate wide and obtain information on reporting systems and the lifetime license.

Representative Theriot has introduced a bill that will create a system on a lifetime license that certainly should provide some additional funding to the department as well. This would be a voluntary system and one is not required to buy a lifetime license unless they want to. The interest from this certainly would generate more than a regular license sale and would help the department out as well.

Acting Secretary McInnis met with Ducks Unlimited and worked with them on their Private Lands Initiative Program and also made contacts for some potential financial support from their foundation which is a new project for acquiring and developing wetland areas for waterfowl. Acting Secretary McInnis was very pleased with their support and the interest that they showed in working with the state on their problems and the acquisition especially.

With all of the problems that the weather has been causing in the last month all of the department employees have been helping people who have been flooded, helping to relocate animals, closing waterways to protect property damage, etc. Unfortunately there has been several drownings which the department has been involved in advised Acting Secretary McInnis. The weather has also caused damage to department property such as bridge damage, road damage, etc. There is federal funding that will be available to help with repair work but not any time in the immediate future. The department is trying to assess the damage and will be reporting back to the Commission.

There was a problem on the Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area with the Madam Galbert Weir. This weir was put in at the request of the local Police Jury and sportsmen's organizations. It was recognized that the flow patterns would be altered but it was felt that the department could alter it just the right amount and create good water on one side with the dirty water going to the other side. It ended up diverting water all up into private property and ~~the~~ after looking at all alternatives along with mother nature not cooperating the weir had to be removed advised Acting Secretary McInnis. The department will be looking at trying to do something in this area to try and solve the problem that it had before without creating other problems.

There was a bid opening two weeks ago on the New Orleans building and there was a buyer. A bid was received for about \$586,000 and a deposit check was received. No sooner did the applicant get back home he notified the department that they had some problems with the property. The department is working with them to see if the problems are salvageable which had to do with some of the asbestos conditions on the property. Hopefully these have been resolved and the department is also talking with the other bidders to see what might transpire there. It looked good but is no longer stated Acting Secretary McInnis.

Acting Secretary McInnis, at this point in the meeting, asked Mr. Jim Hanifen to come forward and give a brief report on a oil spill down at Cameron Parish earlier this week. Mr. Hanifen advised that an oil spill was reported on Tuesday afternoon from the Cameron area. An offshore platform, approximately three quarters of a mile offshore, seven miles east of the Cameron jetty, collapsed with a 2,800 barrel storage tank on board which held approximately 2,000 barrels of oil and began to leak. The department was informed that oil was approaching the shore in the direction of the Mermentau River. That afternoon and Wednesday morning department staff were on sight at the spill area. The impact was all in the Rutherford Beach area. The department met with DEQ personnel on the scene, observed the area from helicopter and on the ground and it appears the impacts on the beach and wildlife resources were very small. It was light oil and approximately 1,000 barrels were estimated to have been spilt. As of this time approximately forty percent has

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evaporated and most of the rest of it has been picked up stated Mr. Hanifen. Wildlife resources in the area that were noted to be impacted were four lightly oiled but not distressed birds. As of 2:30 this afternoon the Coast Guard had approved the cleanup on the beach and the cleanup contractor was still working at loading the oil from the sunken tank at the sight and expects to be completed by midnight tonight. What oil is left out there that is not contained are some small isolated sheens concluded Mr. Hanifen.

Mr. McCall asked if Mr. Hanifen said it was from a leaking tank? Mr. Hanifen explained that it was a tank that was on board a platform, the platform collapsed and broke the pipe that was connecting it.

Acting Secretary McInnis thanked Mr. Hanifen and reported that another incident that took place in Salvador Wildlife Management dealing with Texaco there were fifty barrels of oil which killed over a thousand birds. In working with Texaco, the Fish and Wildlife Service, DEQ, the department, etc. some agreements have been reached and Texaco has been very cooperative in helping with the cleanup and have also agreed to a project that will help this type of thing not happen in the future. There will be a full report on this next month advised Acting Secretary McInnis.

The department has looked very closely at a tract of land up in the northeastern part of the state and there should be an announcement very shortly. The department is very pleased to be working out the final agreements on this piece of property.

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Dr. Jerry Clark, Johnnie Tarver and Acting Secretary McInnis met with the people in the Coastal Erosion group. Further studies will be made on the Caernarvon Project and the Bonne Carre' Potential Project. The Commission will be brought up to date as events take place. Caernarvon did not open as yet because of all the influx of freshwater that has been received and as soon as it does they will be working some models and projecting the benefits that not only for Caernarvon but also that these additional freshwater diversion project may have for the area.

Concluding his report, Acting Secretary stated that if anyone had any questions he would be glad to address them.

Mr. McCall stated that there was a lot of controversy going on in Calcasieu and Beauregard Parishes. There have been some public meetings and more are scheduled in regards to some people owning animals such cheetah, panthers, lions, tigers, bear, etc. (exotic). Mr. McCall asked if the Wildlife and Fisheries got involved in this in any way, shape or form. Acting Secretary McInnis explained that if is an exotic animal the Fish and Wildlife Service takes control of it and the department does not get involved normally. If there is a situation where it becomes a danger to the people in the area sometimes the department will be contacted for assistance. The

department normally does not get involved in those type of non-native animals.

Chairman Jenkins thanked Acting Secretary McInnis for his report and brought before the Commission an item that was a non-agenda item asking for a waiver of rules if the Commission wanted to consider it. The item is on the **Black Bass Limit Rule and the Toledo Bend Reciprocal Agreement, Notices of Intent**. Mr. Pol made a motion that the rules be waived. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schneider and passed unanimously.

Copies of the notices of intent were passed out to the Commission. Dr. Jerry Clark explained what was before the Commission was the notices of intent to begin the Administrative Procedure Act to change the statewide limit for black bass everywhere except the trophy lakes, the quality lakes, Toledo Bend and Caddo. This will have to be done in two different way because of the reciprocal agreement with Texas. Whenever something is done that affects the reciprocal agreement with Texas it has to be done separately and the department is proposing to make a change on the Sabine River south of Toledo Bend and make that equivalent to the statewide proposal. The notices of intent is for everyone over the next 150 days to consider the possibility of changing the creel limit from 8 fish to 10 fish on the non-managed lakes, nothing else will change advised Dr. Clark.

Mr. Pol questioned if the task force agreed to this. Dr. Clark stated that the task force was polled as to this change and of those that were contacted none have opposed it. Many months ago the department staff was asked about this and there would be no violent objections among the biological staff to make this change advised Dr. Clark.

Mr. Pol made a motion that the Commission accept the notices of intent for the non-managed areas which will increase the creel limit from 8 bass to 10 bass. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vujnovich. Chairman Jenkins asked if there was any public comment on this.

Mr. Dan Bradhoun addressed the Commission. Mr. Bradhoun stated that he thinks that there is a lot more at stake here than whether the limit is going to be raised from 8 fish to 10 fish. The creditability of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is at stake. Mr. Bradhoun advised that he has spent a lot of time over the last four and a half months talking to fishermen, people that own bait houses, tackle shops, etc. The first thing that anybody should do if something is going to affect over 500,000 fishermen is to get input from the public. People that Mr. Bradhoun works with filled out the forms that were sent out asking about limit, size, etc. and sent them back in and Mr. Bradhoun stated that these were at the Wildlife and Fisheries somewhere but were not even important enough for somebody to look at and see what they are

about. This was not important, but it was important enough to get the bass management plan in as soon as possible and Mr. Bradhoun advised that he did not know what the rush was because the bass fishery in Louisiana is not going to die in a period of a year. The controversy that is raging right now was because the public input was not so. What the limit could be would depend on what body of water you are fishing stated Mr. Bradhoun. In the plan the LDWF requested that they be able to change from body of water to body of water and this is what the public says that Mr. Bradhoun has talked to. (Mr. Bradhoun has yet to find a person, except one but is sure there is more, that does not belong to a bass club or is a tournament fisherman that is for the bass management plan as it stands now especially lowering the 15 fish creel limit and knows a lot of people that fish tournaments and that are a member of the bass clubs including the ALBC. Many of these people's names are on petitions to go back to the 15 limit. There are only 3,600 members of the ALBC in Louisiana which are most of the members of the bass clubs in Louisiana. Mr. Bradhoun stated that he thinks there are about 10,000 people maximum out of 500,000 licensed freshwater fishermen that are for reducing the creel and if there is a biological reason for reducing the creel limit he would like to know what it is. There are a lot of people who are trying to find out this, was a study done, a certain study, a good study, or can a study be done to reduce the creel limit over the whole state. Mr. Bradhoun stated that he does not think an assessment was made of what the people really wanted and does not know why the department wanted it so bad. Senator Sevario told Mr. Bradhoun yesterday if there had not been a single petition signed that he has received enough phone calls that he knows the people in his area want a 15 fish limit and he would not object if his bill was amended to go to a 15 fish limit based on the input that he is getting from his people. Mr. Bradhoun asked where did the number come from to reduce it to ten, why not twelve, fifteen, or twenty. What the majority of people in Louisiana want should be what they get and if they do not care for a bigger fish and if they don't want to pay the price to get a bigger fish and if they are satisfied with a two, three, four and five, etc. pound fish then give it to them stated Mr. Bradhoun. Mr. Bradhoun questioned why the statewide slot limit was not adopted; apparently there was enough public objection to the statewide slot limit that it was not adopted. This was suppose to be one of the major tools to raise the size of bass assuming people wanted to pay the price to have it raise. Mr. Bradhoun does not think this was what the people wanted. In 99 percent of Louisiana's waters there is a reduce creel limit standing alone for which there is no reason. If there is a reason Mr. Bradhoun wish someone would come forward and tell him what it is. Concluding Mr. Bradhoun suggested that the department should set the limit back to 15 and if a study is done that shows it should be lowered then do it.

*Due to a mechanical failure in the recording system the following agenda items were not recorded and the minutes had to be transcribed from notes taken during the meeting. These agenda items are: 1) Continuation-Black Bass; 2) Lottery System for Thistlewaite; 3) Set September Meeting Date; 4) Public Comments.

Chairman Jenkins commented on Mr. Bradhound's comments and advised that there were numerous public hearings all over the state on the black bass plan and also the public had the opportunity to attend the Commission meetings and believes the Commission and department gave the people what they wanted.

Chairman Jenkins called for a vote on the motion made by Mr. Pol and seconded by Mr. Vujnovich. The motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the notice of intent is made a part of the record)

NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING

SECTION 123. Chicot Lake Black Bass Harvest Restriction

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:325(C).
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 13:364 (June 1988), L.R. 16:38 (January 1990), Repealed L.R. 17:277 (March 1991), Repromulgated in S. 149 of this Chapter.

SECTION 149. BLACK BASS REGULATIONS-DAILY TAKE AND SIZE LIMITS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish a statewide daily take (creel limit) of 10 fish for black bass (Micropterus spp.). The possession limit shall be the same as the daily take on water and twice the daily take off water.

In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following waterbodies:

Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish) and False River (Pointe Coupee' Parish):

Size Limit: 15 inch - 19 inch slot
Daily Take: 8 fish - of which no more than 2 fish
may exceed 19 inches maximum total
length.*

Possession Limit: On Water - Same as daily take
Off Water - Twice the daily take

A 15 - 19 inch slot limit means that it is illegal
to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total
length is between 15 inches and 19 inches,
both measurements inclusive.

Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes), Black
Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Caney Creek Lake (Jackson
Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake
(Caddo Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and
Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

Size Limit: 14 - 17 inch slot
Daily Take: 8 fish - of which no more than 4 fish
may exceed 17 inches maximum total length.

Possession Limit: On Water - Same as daily take
Off Water - Twice the daily take

A 14 - 17 inch slot means that it is illegal to keep
or possess a black bass whose maximum total length
is between 14 inches and 17 inches, both
measurements inclusive.

* Maximum total length - The distance in a straight line from the
tip of the snout to the most posterior point of the depressed
caudal fin as measured with mouth closed on a flat surface.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed
rule to the following address before August 30, 1991: Bennie J.
Fontenot, Jr., Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6
(25)(a), 325 (c), 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 14:364 (June
1988), Amended L.R. 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated L.R. 17:489
(May 1991), Amended L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman

(The full text of the notice of intent is made a part of the record)

RULE
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING

SECTION 110. TOLEDO BEND RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby amends the Joint Louisiana/Texas Toledo Bend and Caddo Lake Sportfishing Reciprocal Agreement that became effective April 1, 1991.

The daily creel limit, (daily take), for black bass (Micropterus spp.) is set at 8 fish and the minimum total length is set at 14 inches in Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25) (a), 325 (c), 326.3, 673.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission L.R. 14:548 (August 1988), Amended L.R. 17:278 (March 1991), Amended L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman

At this point in the meeting Mr. Bateman asked to address the Commission. Mr. Bateman asked that the Commission authorize Acting Secretary McInnis to consider development of a Lottery System for Deer Hunting on the Thistlewaite Wildlife Management Area.

Chairman Jenkins called for a vote to waive the rules to take action on the lottery system for deer hunting on the Thistlewaite Wildlife Management Area. A motion was made by Mr. Pol that the rules be waived and was seconded by Mr. McCall. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Schneider that the Commission authorize Acting Secretary McInnis to proceed with development of a lottery

system for deer hunting on the Thistlewaite Wildlife Management Area. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously.

The Date for the September Meeting was set for September 5, 1991 to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Quail Drive.

Chairman Jenkins called for Public Comments. Comments were made on the Proposed 1991-92 Game Hunting Seasons.

Mr. Don Dubuc, Manderville, Louisiana, addressed the Commission. Mr. Dubuc represented several hunting clubs in St. Tammany Parish. Mr. Dubuc requested that the Commission consider, for the next meeting, moving a portion from the proposed new Area 6 for deer hunting to Area 1. He also asked that a motion be made to consider this so that when the final regulations are set at the July meeting this will be considered.

Mr. Pol made a motion that this be referred to the Hunting Regulations Committee and that they report back to the Commission at the next meeting on their recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously.

There being no other business Chairman Jenkins called for a motion to adjourn the June 6, 1991 Commission meeting. A motion was by Mr. Pol for adjournment and seconded Mr. McCall. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Kell McInnis III
Acting Secretary

AKM:sb

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JUNE 6, 1991

- ✓ 1. Roll Call
- ✓ 2. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 1991.
- ✓ 3. Boise Cascade WMA Lease Renewals and Recognition - Hugh Bateman
- ✓ 4. 1991 Turkey Hunting Season Report and Shot Gun Drawing - Hugh Bateman
- ✓ 5. Recommended Changes in Notice of Intent on 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons - Hugh Bateman
- ✓ 6. Overview of Habitat Conservation Division - Johnnie Tarver
- ✓ 7. Notice of Intent - 22 Inches Minimum Total Size Limit for Commercial Harvest of Bowfin - Dr. Jerry Clark
- ✓ 8. Update on Spotted Seatrout Quota - Dr. Jerry Clark
- ✓ 9. Informational Shrimp Report on Season Opening - Phil Bowman
- ~~10. Request to Amend Seismic Fee Schedule - Industry Representatives of Oil, Gas, and Geophysical Companies~~
- ✓ 11. Sale of Chartres Street Property - Bettsie Baker
- ✓ 12. Monthly Law Enforcement Report - Colonel Winton Vidrine
- ✓ 13. Acting Secretary's Report to the Commission - A. Kell McInnis III
- ✓ 14. Set September Meeting Date
15. Public Comments:
 - ✓ Public Hearing on Proposed 1991-92 Game Hunting Season

DEPARTMENT: LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
AGENCY: OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
AGENCY NUMBER: 16-513 FY 1992-1993
PROGRAM NAME: Habitat Conservation

PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION - LEGAL CITATION

Article, IX, Section VII of the Constitution of Louisiana, Chapter 13 or Title 36, sub-parts of Title 56, and Chapters, parts, or sections of Titles 9, 30, 36, 41, and 49 pertaining to wildlife and fisheries, as provided for by the 1974 Constitution, the Revised Statutes of 1950, and Legislative acts through the 1988 session of the Legislature.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program dates back to the Federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1946; it has expanded over the years because of conflicts between development interests, natural resource user groups, and other environmental interests. The activities under this program have developed into some of the more important and demanding operations within this Office as a result of the passage of the Environmental Protection Act of 1969, the Scenic Rivers Act 368 of 1970 as amended; the Federal Land State Coastal Zone Acts, the National Environmental Policy Act, The Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Threatened and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1974 as amended and the Louisiana Natural Heritage Preservation Act of 1987. The vast responsibilities are developing in this program because of State and Federal laws to protect the extremely valuable wetlands, nursery grounds and other natural habitats which generate a multitude of natural, renewable resources.

The Environmental Section was created in May 1971 from the River Basins Section. An expansion in the responsibilities of the Section resulted in the creation of the Ecological Studies Section and its relocation to the Office of Coastal and Marine Resources in 1981. In 1988 the Ecological Studies Section was incorporated into the Habitat Conservation Division in the Office of Wildlife.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program was transferred from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in 1986 and became part of the Refuge Division. In 1988 it was incorporated into the Habitat Conservation Division in the Office of Wildlife.

The Non-Game program was created in the Game Division in 1987 to administer a program to utilize the funds from the tax write-off authorized in 1981 by Act 784. The tax write-off authorization was repealed in 1988. The Non-Game program was incorporated into the Habitat Conservation Division of the Office of Wildlife in 1988.

GOAL: To the maximum extent possible conserve fish and wildlife habitat throughout the State of Louisiana and its coastal waters.

1. OBJECTIVE: Annually prevent or mitigate the destruction of wetlands and other valuable wildlife habitat by causing permit applicants to reduce damages and mitigate the unavoidable loss of those habitats through the creation or replacement of habitats of equal value.

STRATEGIES:

- 1.1. Review approximately 3000 permit applications received and provide comments relative to the impacts and the mitigative actions required to prevent or minimize damages to fish and wildlife habitat.
- 1.2. As necessary, hold meetings with applicants to discuss project alternatives which will result in mitigating environmental damages.
- 1.3. Conduct field investigations and site inspections of at least 50% of the total number of projects, and 100% of the major projects for which we receive permit public notices in order to assess potential impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

- 1.4. Continue working closely with the permitting agencies to assure that our recommendations for mitigation are implemented to the maximum extent possible.
- 1.5. Fully develop and implement a computerized permit and mitigation success tracking system by June 30, 1992 in order to document the number of permits reviewed, the number of acres impacted by the projects and the number of acres preserved or created through mitigation.
- 1.6. Annually achieve no net, functional loss of wetlands and other valuable wildlife habitat.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Number of permits reviewed
2. Log of field investigations compared to permit applications received.
3. Comparison of habitat units impacted to habitat units of mitigation.

2. OBJECTIVE: Fully implement the Scenic River Act for protection and management of the Scenic River System by June 30, 1995.

STRATEGIES:

- 2.1. Develop and fully implement six Scenic River management plans by June 30, 1992.
- 2.2. Evaluate and develop recommendation reports on the streams nominated during the 1991 regular legislative session by March 15, 1992.
- 2.3. Complete the ecological evaluation of four System streams by June 30, 1992.
- 2.4. Complete the ecological evaluation of 25 streams in the system by June 30, 1995.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Complete 6 management plans by the end of the fiscal year.
2. Submit evaluation documents on nominated streams to the Legislature within prescribed time frame.
3. Ecological evaluation of at least 4 Scenic Streams
4. Refine Scenic River database and configure for GIS.

3. OBJECTIVE To insure that no rare, threatened, or endangered species or habitats are lost from the state.

STRATEGIES:

- 3.1 Conduct at least 6 research projects on rare, threatened, or endangered species or habitats.
- 3.2 Protect habitats or rare, threatened, or endangered species through LDWF's and the Nature Conservancy's land acquisition strategy and through the Natural Areas Registry program.
- 3.3 Annually conduct field surveys for at least 50 rare, threatened or endangered species and 20 natural communities.
- 3.4 Annually review at least 500 proposed projects statewide requiring state or federal environmental permits.
- 3.5 Annually review all proposed management plans received by LDWF for state and federal lands in Louisiana.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Number of research projects conducted on rare, threatened or endangered species or habitats.
2. Interim and final research documents prepared.
3. Number of acres acquired or registered.

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

4. Number of field surveys conducted and results added to database.
5. Number of permits and management plans reviewed.

4. OBJECTIVE: To raise public awareness and to promote conservation and management of all nongame wildlife species.

STRATEGIES:

- 4.1 During FY 91-92, interview at least 75 private/corporate land owners relative to land management options beneficial to nongame species.
- 4.2 Complete computerized database on all vertebrates in Louisiana during FY 91-92 and annually update.
- 4.3 Initiate assessment of effects of commercial reptile and amphibian trade in Louisiana in FY 91-92 and annually recommend regulations to Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.
- 4.4 Conduct at least 10 Breeding Bird Surveys
- 4.5 Produce at least 5 publications for the general public and present the nongame program to 25 public and scientific organizations.
- 4.6 Maintain eastern bluebird trail on Sandy Hollow and Sherburne Wildlife Management Areas.
- 4.7 Complete plans for nature trails on Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area, Sherburne Wildlife Management Area, Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Dawson Creek.
- 4.8 Write and produce informational brochures on the Nongame Wildlife Program, snakes of Louisiana, "orphaned" wildlife, backyard wildlife habitat management and birding spots in Louisiana.
- 4.9 Answer public inquiries and address youth, conservation, and civic groups relative to nongame wildlife.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

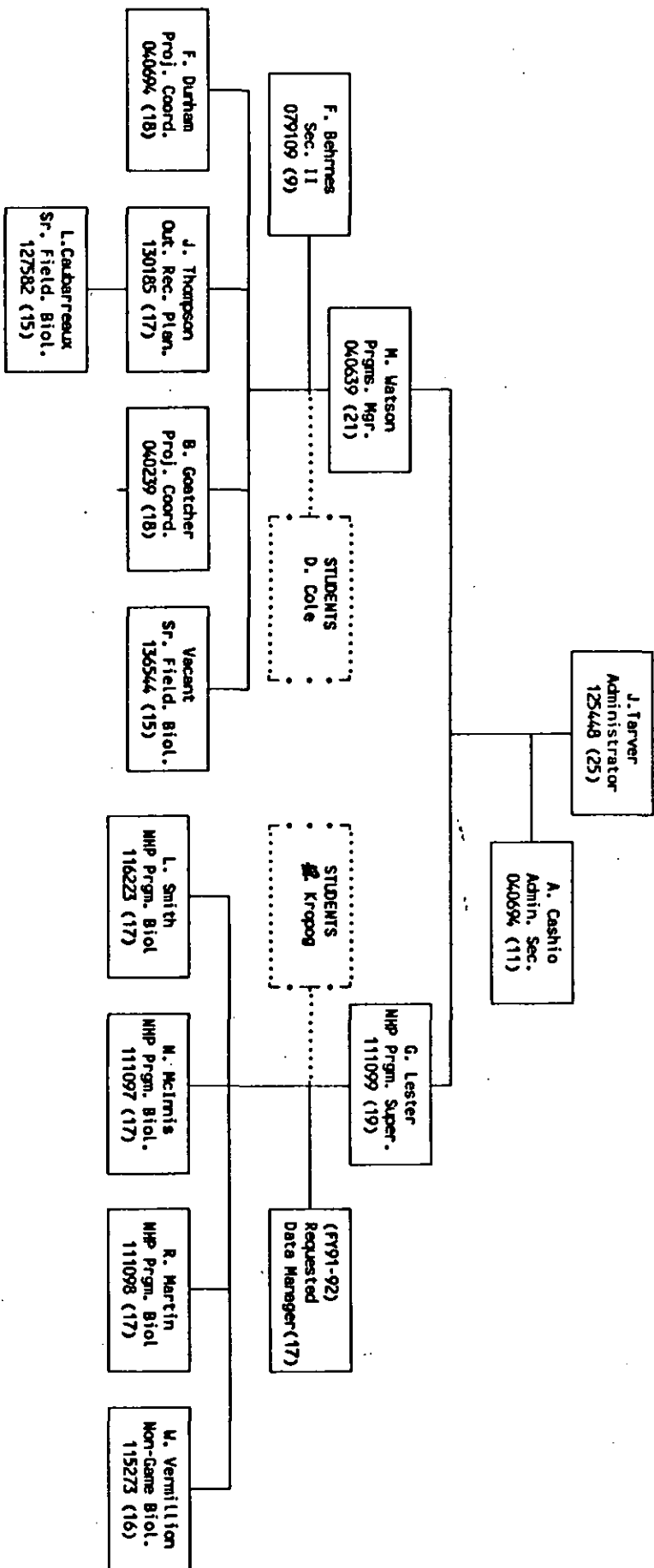
1. Number of landowners interviewed and number enrolled in land management options for nongame species.
2. Number of vertebrate records updated in the database.
3. Drafted regulations for Commission action concerning reptiles.
4. Number of breeding bird surveys conducted.
5. Number of publications completed and number of presentations made.
6. Status reports completed on Sandy Hollow and Sherburne bluebird trails.
7. Plans for nature trails ready for implementation.
8. Completed publications addressing nongame wildlife issues.
9. Number of logged inquiries and services provided.

COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:

1. Cameron-Creole Watershed
2. Barataria-Terrebonne NEP (Technical, Policy, Management)
3. Wetlands Task Force
4. Black Bear Conservation Committee
5. IAFWA-AEC/PAS
6. Mussel Task Force
7. Land Acquisition Task Force
8. Government Wetlands Task Force
9. Scenic Rivers Task Force
10. Amite River Basin Interagency Committee
11. Governor's Task Force on Flood Prevention and Mitigation
12. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Habitat Committee
13. Society of American Foresters RCW Task Force
14. Governor's Capitol Lakes Task Force
15. La. Dept. Ag & Forestry Stewardship Forestry Program
16. La. Dept. Ag & Forestry Pesticide & Endangered species Task Force.
17. DEQ's LEAP 2000 Comparative Risk Program
18. LDOTD's Project Wildflower

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

HABITAT CONSERVATION DIVISION
Organizational Chart



COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL
Thursday, June 6, 1991
Baton Rouge, LA

	Attended	Absent
Jimmy Jenkins (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	_____
Houston Foret	<u>✓</u>	_____
Bert Jones	<u>✓</u>	_____
Norman McCall	<u>✓</u>	_____
Warren Pol	<u>✓</u>	_____
"Jesse" John Schneider	✓	_____
Peter Vujnovich	<u>✓</u>	_____

Mr. Chairman:

There are 7 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Acting Secretary Kell McInnis is also present.

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JUNE 6, 1991

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 1991.
3. Boise Cascade WMA Lease Renewals and Recognition - Hugh Bateman
4. 1991 Turkey Hunting Season Report and Shot Gun Drawing - Hugh Bateman
5. Recommended Changes in Notice of Intent on 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons - Hugh Bateman
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12. Monthly Law Enforcement Report - Colonel Winton Vidrine
13. Acting Secretary's Report to the Commission - A. Kell McInnis III
14. Set September Meeting Date
15. Public Comments:

Public Hearing on Proposed 1991-92 Game Hunting Season

Don's
copy



STEVE STEFANCIK
PRESIDENT

GARY SINGLETARY
VICE-PRESIDENT

FLOYD D. GLASS, DIST. 1
CLYDE KEATING, DIST. 2
JAMES A. "RED" THOMPSON, DIST. 3
WILL GRIFFIN, DIST. 4
KERRY MARWELL, SR., DIST. 5
GARY SINGLETARY, DIST. 6
TERRENCE J. HAND, DIST. 7

ST. TAMMANY PARISH POLICE JURY
P. O. BOX 628
COVINGTON, LOUISIANA 70434
(504) 898-2362

DAVID DONERTY, JR., DIST. 8
BARRY BABERT, DIST. 9
M. W. WEBB HART, DIST. 10
STEVE STEFANCIK, DIST. 11
KEVIN DAVIS, DIST. 12
J. MILTON GIBSON, DIST. 13
ANTHONY ALFRED, DIST. 14

March 22, 1991

Mr. Winton Vindrine
Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Mr. Vindrine:

I have been contacted by the many members of the Hunting Clubs in the area I represent. They are concerned about the proposed changes being considered in regard to deer hunting. Enclosed you will find Resolution P.J.S. No. 91-5147, adopted by the St. Tammany Parish Police Jury on March 21, 1991, requesting additional areas to be included in the new Zone 6 boundaries for deer hunting.

In the new proposal, Zone 6 Interstate 12 is used as the dividing line. The members of the 7 Hunting Clubs I represent are requesting the following to be included in Zone 6. To go up Highway 11 to Pearl River, down Highway 41 to Talisheek, down Highway 435 to Acita Springs, and then down Highway 59 to Interstate 12. I have highlighted the approximate portion of this area on the new proposed map.

The clubs lease approximately 60,000 acres of land in this area, and this would allow them an additional 17 days in which to hunt with their dogs. I would greatly appreciate any assistance and/or consideration you could give to them in their request.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Gary Singletary

Gary Singletary
Police Juror, District 6

GS/kkk

cc: St. Tammany Parish Legislative Delegation

ST. TAMMANY PARISH POLICE JURY

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION POLICE JURY SERIES NO. 91-5147

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
AND FISHERIES TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL AREAS WITHIN THE NEW
ZONE 6 BOUNDARIES FOR DEER HUNTING IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH.

WHEREAS, the new zone boundaries proposed by Wildlife and Fisheries for deer hunting in St. Tammany Parish would greatly affect hunting clubs which lease thousands of acres of land in this parish; and

WHEREAS, areas previously forming part of Zone 1 would be included in the new proposal as Zone 6 with Interstate 12 being used as the dividing line; and

WHEREAS, it is requested that Zone 6 be extended up Highway 11 to Pearl River, down Highway 41 to Talisheek, down Highway 435 to Abita Springs, and down Highway 59 to Interstate 12; and

WHEREAS, this expansion of Zone 6 would allow hunting clubs an additional seventeen days for members to hunt with their dogs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the St. Tammany Parish Police Jury that it requests the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to include the areas listed above within the new Zone 6 boundaries for deer hunting in St. Tammany Parish.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY MR. SINGLETARY, SECONDED BY MR. HAND

YEAS: GLASS, KEATING, GRIFFIN, SINGLETARY, HAND, DOHERTY, BAGERT, DAVIS, ALFRED AND STEFANCIK (10)

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: THOMPSON, HARWELL, HART AND GIBSON (4)

AND THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED ON THE 21st DAY OF MARCH, 1991, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICE JURY, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT.


STEVE STEFANCIK, PRESIDENT
ST. TAMMANY PARISH POLICE JURY

ATTEST:


DIANE HUESCHEN, SECRETARY
ST. TAMMANY PARISH POLICE JURY



SENATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

GERRY E. HINTON, D. C.

State Senator
District 11
Parishes of:
St. Tammany & Tangipahoa

2549 Carey Street
Slidell, LA 70458

COMMITTEES:
Health and Welfare - Chairman
Judiciary C - Vice Chairman
Labor and Industrial Relations
Transportation, Highways & Public Works

March 14, 1991

Mr. Winton Vindrine
Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

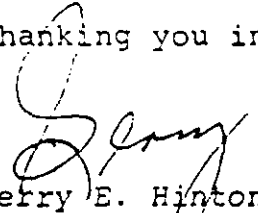
Dear Mr. Vindrine,

I have been contacted by the many members of the Hunting Clubs in the area I represent. They are concerned about the proposed changes being considered in regard to deer hunting. Enclosed for your convenience please find two copies of maps, one which shows the area as it was, Zone 1 and the second showing the new proposal showing the area as Zone 6.

In the new proposal, Zone 6 Interstate 12 is used as the dividing line. The members of the 7 Hunting Clubs I represent would like to request the following to be included in Zone 6. To go up Hwy. 11 to Pearl River, down Hwy. 41 to Talisheek, down Hwy. 435 to Abita Springs, and then down Hwy. 59 to Interstate 12. I have highlighted the approximate portion of this area on the new proposed map.

The clubs lease approximately 60,000 acres of land in this area, and this would allow them an additional 17 days in which to hunt with their dogs. I would greatly appreciate any assistance and/or consideration you could give to them in their request.

Thanking you in advance, I am


Gerry E. Hinton, D.C.
Senator, District 11

GEH/wl

c.c. Honorable B.B. Rayburn



SHERIFF

PATRICK J. CANULETTE

March 19, 1991

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR
PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY

Mr. Winton Vindrine
Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Mr. Vindrine:

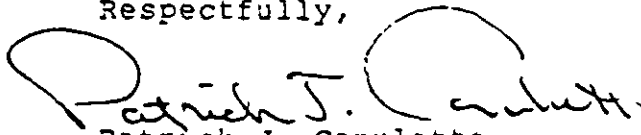
I have been contacted by many members of hunting clubs in St. Tammany Parish, who are concerned about the proposed changes in the deer hunting season. The proposed change would put most of rural St. Tammany in Zone 1, which will only have 27 days to hunt with dogs.

In an area North of I-12, there are seven hunting clubs that primarily hunt deer with dogs. This area is owned by timber companies who lease to the clubs. This land is mostly flat pine timberland, encompassed by State highways. As Sheriff of this parish, I have had no problems in the past with dog hunting in these areas.

I encourage you to consider their request, and that they be included in the new proposed Zone 6, which would give the dog hunters a 44 day deer season. An ideal geographic boundary could be U.S. 11 North to LA. 41, to LA. 433 West to LA. 59 South to I-12 for this new zone.

As a hunting dog owner, I can understand their concern about keeping dogs all year and being allowed only a short season to hunt. Thank you for your consideration, I am

Respectfully,


Patrick J. Canulette

PJC/pja

DIXIE RANCH WILDLIFE LTD, INC.
P.O. BOX 1755
LACOMBE, LA. 70445

May 15, 1991

La. Wildlife & Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

Dear Commission:

The Dixie Ranch Hunting Club, made up of 80 members, primarily Dog Hunters, has requested that we be added to the proposed Zone 6 Area for Deer Hunting.

Our Club along with six other Dog Hunting Clubs is in the center of St. Tammany Parish, on rough piney wood land with water standing in a lot of the flat areas. Still Hunting is not successful enough to have a good deer harvest.

Since these Clubs have been in existence for the last eight years, the Deer and Turkey have made dramatic increases, as witnessed by your Wildlife Agents & Biologist. All of the Hunting Clubs have large tracts of land leased from Timber Companies, with Dixie Ranch having 10,000 acres and no problems with residential areas.

If we are left in Area 1, as proposed with only 27 days to use our dogs, most of the Hunters would quit hunting big game or go out of State, in fact it would not be financially feasible to feed a dog year round for that short of a Hunting Season.

The geographic line on I-12, seems unreasonable because the Area in St. Tammany that is South of I-12, has a 44 day season and no Dog Hunting Clubs.

We suggest that a new line be drawn, using US-11 North to La. 41, to La. 435, West to La. 59 S. to I-12, this would put all the primarily Dog Hunting Area in Zone 6, which would be acceptable to everyone.

Dog Hunting in this Area is a tradition that has been handed down from generation to generation. The area described is still conducive to the sport. If it is lost the economy of the Parish would suffer a great loss, for no valid reason.
Thank you for considering this proposal.

Ron Patterson
President, Dixie Ranch Wildlife Ltd., Inc.

Mossy Hill Hunting Club Inc.
Talisheek, La.

March 19, 1991

Mr. Winton Vindrine
Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

Dear Mr. Vindrine,

The Mossy Hill Hunting Club, made up of 100 members, primarily Dog Hunters, has requested that we be added to the proposed Zone 6 Area for Deer Hunting.

Our Club along with six other Dog Hunting Clubs is in the center of St. Tammany Parish, on rough piney wood land with water standing in a lot of the flat areas. Still Hunting is not successful enough to have a good deer harvest.

Since these Clubs have been in existence for the last ten years, the Deer and Turkey have made dramatic increases, as witnessed by Your Wildlife Agents & Biologist. All of the Hunting Clubs have large tracts of land leased from Timber Companys, with Mossy Hill having 14,000 acres and no problems with residential areas.

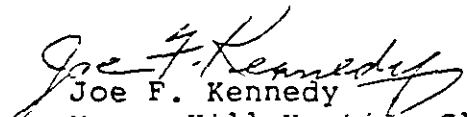
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We suggest that a new line be drawn, using US-11 North to La.41, to La. 435, West to La. 59 S. to I-12, this would put all the primarily Dog Hunting Area in Zone 6, which would be acceptable to everyone.

Dog Hunting in this Area is a tradition that has been handed down from generation to generation. The area described is still conducive to the sport. If it is lost the economy of the Parish would suffer a great loss, for no valid reason.

Thank you for considering this proposal.


Joe F. Kennedy
Mossy Hill Hunting Club Inc.

April 9, 1991

RACKMEN HUNTING CLUB
62379 North Pontchartrain Drive
Lacombe, Louisiana 70445

Mr. Winton Vindrine
Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Ridge
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 90808

Dear Mr. Vindrine,

We are the Rackmen Hunting Club. We consist of thirty-five members.
As a dog-hunting club, we are concerned with the proposal of Zone 6.

The members of the Rackmen Hunting Club would like to request the following to be included in Zone 6. To go up Highway 11 to Pearl River, down Highway 41 to Talisheek, down Highway 435 to Abita Springs, and down Highway 59 to Interstate 12.

Rackmen Hunting Club leases approximately 5,200 acres of land in this area and this would allow an additional 17 days in which to hunt with our dogs. We would greatly appreciate any help or consideration you give us at our request.

Thank you,

RACKMEN HUNTING CLUB

Alonzo C. Baham
75379 Lenel Rd.
Cov., LA 70433

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

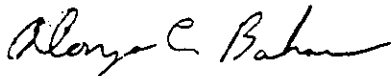
Dear Department of Wildlife and Fisheries:

I am concerned about the recommendations the advisory committee has made regarding deer season. I am the President of the Smoking Guns Hunting Club, and we have a lease of 1703 acres located on Hwy 1088 in St. Tammany Parish. Our 16-member club was established to hunt deer with dogs. The area around our lease is predominantly hunted by other clubs which also use dogs. We would appreciate our area being included in the proposed new Area VI, which is recommended to have 44 days with or without dogs.

Also, I do not believe a hunting dog's collar needs to have the owner's driver's license number on it. The owner's name, city, and telephone number most commonly appears on the collar and seems to be sufficient.

I would appreciate your considering these two suggestions.

Sincerely,



ABITA HUNTING CLUB



May 6, 1991

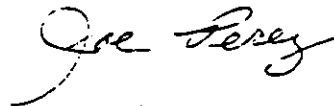
To : Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

I would like to have the Abita Hunting Club which is bounded by, Hwy. 36 to the North, Abita Airport to the East, Ponchatawala Creek to the South, and the town of Abita to the West included in the new proposed Area 6 .

The lease of 1800 acres that we have secured for the last two years consist mostly of wet bottom land, thick Pine and almost impassable briar bushes. The members of this club like many clubs that surround us, feel that dog hunting is necessary to the effectiveness for the area in which we hunt.

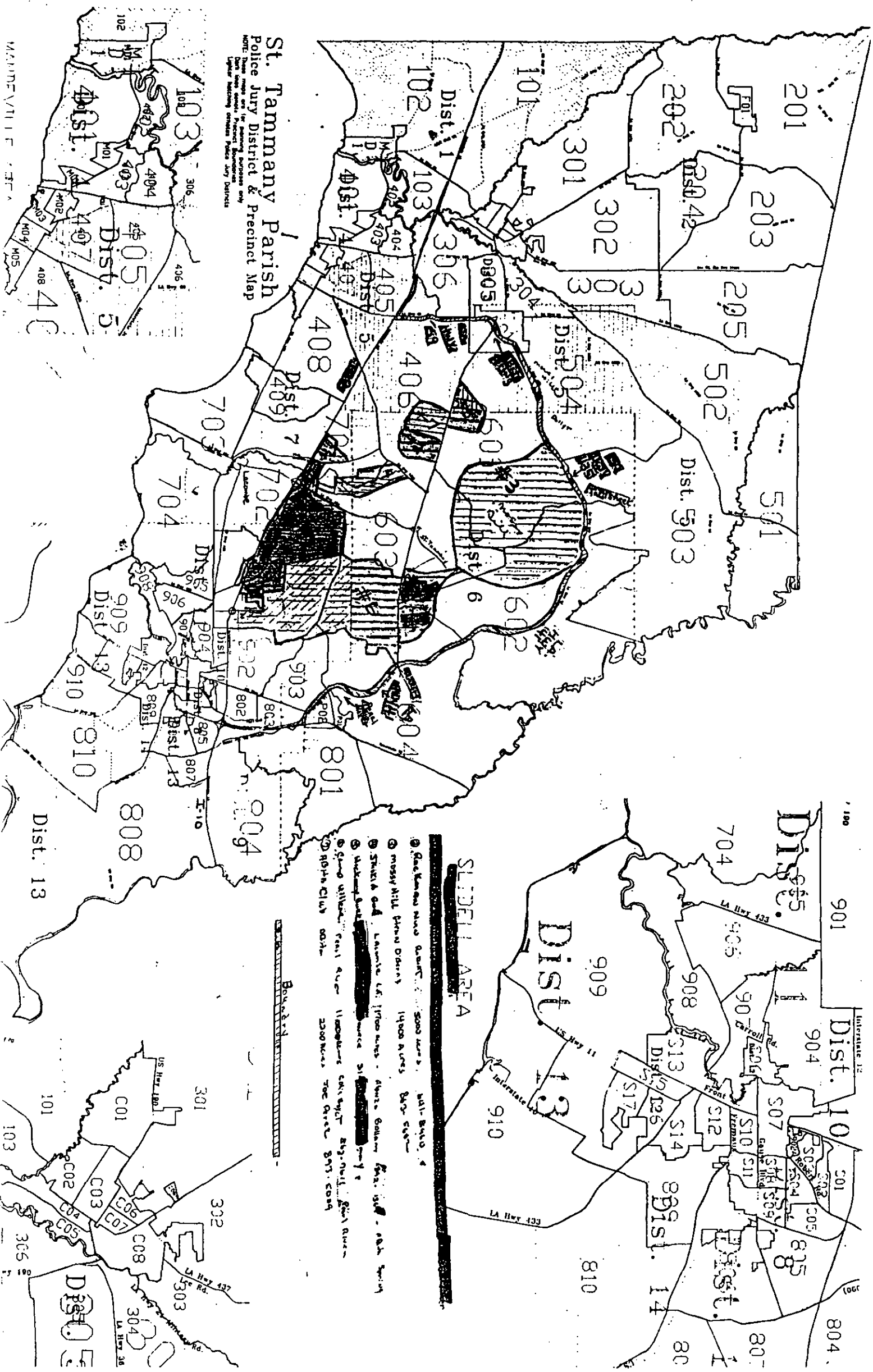
We hope that you would consider our request to be included in the new Area 6.

Abita Hunting Club



Joe Perez
President

cc:mbr.



1991 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season
Opening Day Report
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
June 6, 1991

Environmental conditions associated with shrimp production throughout coastal Louisiana continued to deteriorate during the time between the May 2 Commission meeting and the opening of the inshore shrimp season. Near constant rainfall and persistent southerly winds caused extensive flooding throughout much of coastal Louisiana. In Zone 2 when the season opened tides were 2-4 feet above normal. While the near constant rainfall lowered salinity levels to near zero in the upper bay systems, the persistent southerly winds and above normal tides slowed the normal drainage pattern and tended to mitigate the effects of the excessive amounts of rainfall on lower bay salinities.

2 day Special White Shrimp Season

A special two day shrimp season was held in Calcasieu Lake on May 7 and 8 to allow fishermen the opportunity to harvest overwintering white shrimp.

On May 5 just prior to the opening of the special season a frontal passage moved through the Calcasieu Lake area causing white shrimp in the lake to begin emigrating from Calcasieu Lake. Wingnet fishermen in the Calcasieu Ship Channel jetty on May 5 and 6 were catching 6,000-7,000 lbs. of 21-25 through 36-40 count (whole shrimp per pound) shrimp each night.

When the special season opened approximately 250 boats (commercial and recreational) were noted fishing in Calcasieu Lake. Based on the observed effort and catch rates it is estimated that 75,000 pounds of 21-25 through 40-50 count white shrimp were harvested during the 2 day special season.

Zone 2

The spring inshore shrimp season opened in Zone 2 at 6:00 a.m. on May 16th with fishing conditions less than desirable. South and southeast winds had the bays rough and tides were 2-4 feet above normal with coastal flooding prevalent. Salinities in the upper bays were below 5 ppt and continuing to drop. With the exception of Vermilion Bay which produced very few shrimp, overall catches in Zone 2 on opening day were fair, although the brown shrimp were smaller than in past years.

Recreational fishermen in the eastern portion of Zone 2 averaged 50 pounds (one ice chest) of 80-100 count brown shrimp with a few large (21-25 or 31-35 count) white shrimp mixed in. Inshore commercial trawl catches averaged 200 pounds of 80-100 count brown shrimp. Inshore the wingnet fishermen caught significantly more shrimp per fishermen averaging 2,000 pounds of 70-80 and 80-100 count shrimp along the coast and 700 pounds of 80-100 count shrimp in the mid and upper marsh areas. Offshore catches were good with trawlers catching between 4000-5000 pounds of 70-80 and 80-100 count shrimp during a 3-5 day trip. Commercial

fishermen also reported catching overwintering (21-25 to 31-35 count) white shrimp. Catches of white shrimp increased as you moved closer to the Atchafalya River.

Two observations relative to the opening in Zone 2 as compared to the past 5 years were:

1. The absence of medium size (40-50 and 50-60 count) brown shrimp which are usually found in the lower bays and near offshore waters when the season opens.
2. The over all lack of effort this year as compared to past years. A check of license sales indicates this year though May 10 the Department sold 12,563 resident trawl licenses and 5,747 resident wingnet licenses as compared to 16,735 trawl and 8,142 wingnet licenses for the same time period of 1990. This coupled with flooded launches and anticipation of only small shrimp being available probably contributed to the low turnout on opening day.

Zone 1 and 3

The spring inshore shrimp season in both Zone 1 and Zone 3 opened at 6:00 a.m. on May 30. Zone 1 was originally scheduled to open on May 23, however, continued biological monitoring by the department demonstrated, the shrimp size in Zone 1 was not

increasing as projected. On May 23 the original opening date for Zone 1 only 30% of the brown shrimp would have been 100 count or larger. By delaying the season one week to May 30 this percentage was increased to approximately 50% which is the department's management criteria for opening the season. Based on this information it was recommended the season be delayed until May 30.

When the season opened in Zone 1 and 3, fishermen found an environmental situation similar to that observed in Zone 2 (low salinities and above normal tides although tides has receded some during the previous week). Overall catches in these areas were low with brown shrimp being small (80-100 count). Some overwintering white shrimp did show up in the catches.

Relative to opening day effort, in general it was well below what we had observed during past years and in some areas it was as much as 75% below what we observed during 1990.

At this point environmental conditions that effect shrimp production are beginning to improve particularly in Zone 2. Tides are returning to normal and rainfall and river stages are beginning to return to "normal" seasonal patterns which is allowing salinity levels to begin increasing. If these patterns continue there is the possibility for an increase in brown shrimp production to occur in late June.

TODAY ~~Before~~ you have before you ~~are~~ lease agreements
Between Boise CASCADE and This Dept. These leases are
a renewal of Boise Commitment to the Dept. WMA Syst.

Boise CASCADE Currently holds in Excess of
93,000 Acres to the Dept. ^{ON A Fee Lease Basis} Their lands are associated
with 3 WMA, Boise Vernon, Sabim: West Bay, located in
West and South west LA. Boise lands have been part of the WMA Syst since
1950's.

These Agreements give the Department the right
to manage the Wildlife Resources and create long term
management commitment between the Dept and Boise CASCADE.

~~Effective dates of the leases are July 1, 1991 and extend~~
~~through June 30, 1996 and are on annual payments~~

Leases are Based on annual renewals of 5 yr terms
with the ~~First~~ Effective date of the First Installment
Begin July 1, 1991 and extends through June 30, 1996.

New agreements assure the existence of these important
areas.

The LDWF would like to take this opportunity
to express our gratitude and commend BC for their
commitment to the Sportsman of LA. ~~through this~~
without support like theirs, the Dept. WMA System
would not be as successful as it is.

Boise Cascade Lease Agreement
Renewals and Recognition
LWF Commission
June 6, 1991

New long term lease agreements, free of charge, have been signed between Boise Cascade Lumber Company and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. [This agreement gives the Department the right to manage wildlife on 93,000 acres of Boise Cascade property in West and Southwest Louisiana. The lease agreement creates long term management commitments between Boise Cascade and the Department based on an annual renewal of five (5) year terms. Affective date of the first installments of this agreement, begins July 1, 1991 and ends June 30, 1996. This new agreement, assures the existence of Boise-Vernon, Sabine and West Bay Wildlife Management Areas which provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the general public.

WMA	Acres Boise Cascade (Total)	Date Established	Man-Days Recreation Provided
Boise			
Vernon	54,269	1960	10,000
(Vernon Pr)	(54,269)	(1982)	
Sabine	7,040	1953	10,000
(Sabine Pr)	(14,780)		
West Bay	32,000	1948	22,000
(Allen Pr)	(55,185)	(1970)	
Total	93,309		42,000

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries appreciates and thanks Boise Cascade for their dedication and trust in allowing the Department to manage the wildlife resource on their property. Working together, we can continue to manage the wildlife resource while providing recreational opportunities for the public.

West Bay WMA
Daily Permit Hunts Summary

Year	Number Days	Kill Males Females (Buck Only)		Total (Includes Buck Only)	Efforts	Efforts Per Kill
1986	19	118	79	197	11,941	60.0
1987	10	36(80) {116}	73	109(189)	6543	60.0
1988	5	28(100) {128}	42	70 (170)	4584	65.0
1989	7	50(80) {130}	55	105(185)	4943	53.0
1990	4	115(60) {175}	67	182(242)	4791	27.0
5 years Totals		667	316	983	32,802	

BOISE VERNON WMA

DAILY PERMIT HUNTS SUMMARY

YEAR	NUMBER DAYS	MALE	KILL FEMALE	TOTAL	EFFORTS	EFFORTS PER KILL
1986	3	26	50	76	1969	25.9
1987	3	27	54	74	1969	26.6
1988	3	37	65	102	2200	21.6
1989 ^C	3	37	52	89	-----	-----
1989 ^B	2	4	3	7	129	18.4
1990	NO DAILY PERMIT HUNTS					

B YOUTH HUNT

C NO PERMITS - MANDATORY WEIGH IN

State of Louisiana



A. Kell McInnis III
Acting Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
(504) 765-2800

Buddy Roemer
Governor

June 3, 1991

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hunting Regulations Committee
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

FROM: Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Game Division

SUBJECT: Changes in Notice of Intent, 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons

*Final action
reviewed at July
Comm. Meeting*
HAB

The attached listing represents recommended changes from the original Notice of Intent on hunting seasons approved in March. Most represent corrections or adjustments which are minor in terms of their impact on the public. I have highlighted those which are most significant and involve changes in season dates and other important hunting regulations.

The most important action you will be asked to consider involves a substantial change in deer hunting regulations for several WMAs. There are three options to consider:

Option A

1. Bucks only hunting on Big Lake, Boeuf, and Saline (Nov. 29, 30, and Dec. 1, 1991).
2. Establish self-clearing stations on these WMAs to obtain hunter participation and success information.
3. Convert the Thistlethwaite WMA to a pre-application lottery system for *either sex* gun hunts.

Option B

Retain either-sex deer hunting regulations as recommended in the original Notice of Intent.

Option C

Complete closure of ALL deer hunting on Big Lake, Boeuf and Saline WMAs.

Please give me a call if you have questions.

HAB:sd

cc: Kell McInnis
Dr. Bob Chabreck
Dave Morrison

Recommended Changes
in
1991-92 Hunting Regulations

DMAF Regulations - Add wording that citation may be issued for non compliance with regulations (Pg. 2).

Methods of Taking - Delete ...slugs, rifles...while hunting. This deletion will have statement read as in the past.

Kisatchie National Forest - Clarification of still hunt regulations in Caney, Corney and Middle Fork tracts (Pg. 12 & 47).

Area 6 - Add Raccourci Island in West Feliciana Parish to Area 6. Inadvertently left out (Pg. 16 & 18).

WMA Rules and Regulations - Prohibit, without a permit, the commercial exploitation of hard and soft mast on Department owned WMAs. Will not prohibit taking for home consumption. Restrict access on nature trails to pedestrians only. No vehicles, livestock, etc. (Pg. 22).

Attakapas, Grassy Lake, Pomme de Terre WMAs - Change rabbit dog season dates to January 25 - February 2. Area 6 deer dog season closes January 19 and this will prevent potential conflict on WMA (Pg. 29, 33, 38).

Turkey Season moved to March 28 - April 5 on Grassy Lake. Season reduced by 7 days and moved earlier to correspond with Area A opening (Pg. 33).

Fort Polk WMA - Add statement pertaining to ATV. Required by U.S. Army (Pg. 32).

Manchac WMA - Add statement to allow archers to take feral hogs during archery season. This is an effort to reduce hog population that is damaging habitat (Pg. 35).

Peason Ridge WMA - Add statement pertaining to ATV. Required by U. S. Army (Pg. 37).

Red River, Three Rivers, Boeuf, Big Lake WMAs - Turkey season moved to March 28 - April 5. Season reduced by 7 days and moved earlier to correspond with Area A opening (Pg. 38 & 44).

Sandy Hollow WMA - Prohibit cattle grazing. Allows for citation to be issued if cattle are released on area (Pg. 42).

Soda Lake WMA - restrict access to daylight hours (Pg. 43).

Spring Bayou WMA - Change rabbit dog season (See Attakapas) (Pg. 43).

National Catahoula WMA - Add special season for physically disabled. Requested by USES.

Eliminate either-sex hunting days on Big Lake, Boeuf and Saline and reduce buck only hunting to 3 days, Nov. 29 and 30 and Dec. 1 (Pg. 30, 31, 33, 38, 40, 42,

44). Shorten buck only segment of deer seasons on Red River, Three Rivers and Sicily Island Hills WMA to 9 days, Dec. 28 - Jan. 5, 1992.

Self-clearing check stations will be set up on Big Lake, Boeuf, and Saline for all deer hunts including youth and muzzleloader seasons.

**NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING

SECTION 153. BOWFIN MINIMUM SIZE REGULATIONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish a statewide 22" minimum size limit on bowfin (Amia calva) harvested for commercial purposes.

In addition, it is the Commission's intent to prohibit commercial fishermen, while on the water, from possessing bowfin eggs that are not naturally connected to a whole fish.

The intent of this regulation is to provide bowfin with adequate protection as the roe fishery for this species expands. Research on this species indicates that the majority of 22" female bowfin have spawned at least one time.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to the following address before : Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr., Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), 326.3
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins
Chairman

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

MAY 1991

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-JUNE 1991

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-175

ENFORCEMENT-175

OTHER - 0

50-Boating

30-Angling W/O A License

67-Fish Without Resident Pole License

3-Taking/Poss. Over Limit Of Undersized Game Fish

2-Take/Possess Illegal Size Black Bass

3-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species

Without Commercial License

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regulations

1-Poss. Of Live Wild Quadrupeds, Wild Birds W/O Permit

**1-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road
Right-Of-Way**

3-Take Alligators W/O License

3-Illegal Poss. Of Alligator eggs, or their skins

2-Resisting Arrest

1-Littering

3-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS:

6 striped bass, 2 black bass, 1 alligator skin.

Page (2)

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-180

ENFORCEMENT-180

OTHER - 0

22-Boating

29-Angling W/O A License

100-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Transport W/O Required License

1-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or
Road Right-Of-Way

2-Resisting Arrest

5-Criminal Trespass

2-DWI

3-Interfering With An Officer

3-Littering

10-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

2-Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

NONE.

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-307

ENFORCEMENT-304

OTHER - 3

139-Boating

96-Angling W/O A License

33-Fish Without Resident Pole License

3-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

REGION 3 CONT'D.

15-Taking/Poss. Over Limit Or Undersized Game Fish

3-Take/Possess Illegal Size Black Bass

2-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

4-Taking Or Possession Of Non-Game Birds-No Season

4-Criminal Trespass On State Property

CONFISCATIONS:

1 rifle, 2 outboard motors, 5 lbs. shrimp, 1-300 feet gill net, 27 bream, 2 crappie, 1 dip net, 16 bass, 1 resident fishing license, 4 hoop nets.

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-51

ENFORCEMENT-49

OTHER - 2

16-Boating

7-Angling W/O a License

23-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Not Abide By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-Theft Of Livestock

1-Littering

2-Criminal Mischief

CONFISCATIONS:

2 hoop nets with leads, 100 yards of 2 inch gill net.

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-228

ENFORCEMENT-218

OTHER - 10

120-Boating

47-Angling W/O A License

2-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

1-Angling W/O Saltwater License

2-Take Game Fish Illegally

1-Fail To Have Fish Intact

1-Take Or Possess Undersized Red Drum

2-Take Or Possess Illegal Size Black Bass

11-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

11-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

7-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

1-Failure To Maintain Records

2-Transport W/O Required License

1-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-Lic. Fisherman

1-Failure To Mark/Tag Nets

2-Trawling In Closed Season

10-Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms

1-Hunt/Trap DMAP Lands W/O Permit From Owner/Lease

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations

1-Taking Or Possessing Alligators Closed Season

1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

1-License Fraud

REGION 5 CONT'D.

CONFISCATIONS

570 lbs. crabs, 1 alligator head, 3 trawls, 1 bass, 9 lbs. black drum, 124 lbs. of speckled trout, 254 sacks of oysters.

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-238

ENFORCEMENT-233

OTHER - 5

142-Boating

48-Angling W/O A License

17-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

3-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Take/Possess O/L Black Drum

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O

Commercial License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

2-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Taking Fish Illegally

1-Use Illegal Mesh Nets

3-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

1-Sell And/Or Purchase Game Fish

1-Trawl In Restricted Areas

1-Poss. Of Live Wild Quadrupeds, Wild Birds W/O Permit

3-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally

2-Possession Of Live Alligators W/O Permit

REGION 6 CONT'D.

3-Take/Poss. Frogs Closed Season

CONFISCATIONS:

2 squirrels, 1 cast net, 4 bass, 53 bream, 4 sac-a-lait, 10 crates of crabs, 3 alligators, 4 frogs, 1 gill net.

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-201

ENFORCEMENT-201

OTHER - 0

73-Boating

1-Allow Another To Use Recreational License

102-Angling W/O A License

19-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Criminal Trespass On State Property

1-DWI

1-Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road

1-Littering

1-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

1-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road

Right-Of-Way

CONFISCATIONS:

None.

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-323

ENFORCEMENT-243

OTHER - 80

36-Boating

103-Angling W/O A License

REGION 8 CONT'D.

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

9-Angling W/O Saltwater License

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

4-Take Or Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout

1-Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum

2-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

8-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

5-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

7-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

1-Failure To Maintain Records

3-Transport W/O Required License

3-Use Illegal Mesh Nets

1-Illegal Use Of Monofilament

3-Leave Nets Unattended

2-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

1-Blocking Passage Of Fish

1-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

1-Fail To Mark Crab Containers

2-Permit Unlicensed Person To Operate Commercial Vessel

2-Permit Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear

10-Take/Possess Oysters Without Oyster Harvester License

3-Failure To Mark/Tag Nets

2-Take/Possess Undersized Black Drum Commercial

1-Commercial Truck Without Display Of Owner Name And Address

REGION 8 CONT'D.

66-Trawling In Closed Season

9-Use Oversize Trawls, Trawl Board

11-Butterflying In Closed Season

5-Use Oversize Butterfly Nets

3-Failure To Have Written Permission

3-Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms

2-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area

2-Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease

2-Failure To Display Number On Vessel

1-Harvest Oysters Without Oyster Harvester License

1-Taking Or Possession Of Non-Game Birds-No Season

2-Littering

3-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS:

1 dredge, 3 licenses, 45 trawls, 2 trawl boards, 6 butterfly nets, 13 gill nets, 1 monofilament net, 67 sacks of oysters, 35 speckled trout, 8 black drum, 5 redfish, 3 sheephead, 40 lbs. of mixed seafood, 10,475 lbs. of shrimp sold for \$14,347.55.

REGION 9

TOTAL CASES-346

ENFORCEMENT-346

OTHER - 0

82-Boating

58-Angling W/O A License

9-Fish Without Resident Pole License

6-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

15-Angling W/O Saltwater License

REGION 9 CONT'D.

41-Take Or Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout

1-Poss. O/L Spotted Sea Trout

2-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

4-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

4-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

13-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

1-Failure To Maintain Records

**1-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish Shipping Regs, Tags and
Identification**

8-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

1-Blocking Passage Of Fish

1-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

1-Permit Unlicensed Person To Operate Commercial Vessel

1-Permit Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear

2-Possess Or Sell Undersized Crabs

1-Commercial Truck Without Display Of Owner Name And Address

2-Take/Poss. Of Frogs Closed Season

1-Transport W/O Required License

28-Trawling In Closed Season

2-Trawling Inside Waters W/Oversized Double Rigs

34-Butterflying In Closed Season

8-Take Shrimp Illegal Gear

1-Use Oversize Butterfly Nets

**4-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road Right-
Of-Way**

REGION 9 CONT'D.

6-Taking Or Possessing Alligators Closed Season

2-Not Abiding by Rules And Regs On WMA

1-Criminal Trespass

2-Littering

1-Resisting Arrest

2-Trawling Inside Waters W/Oversized Boards

CONFISCATIONS:

6729 1/2 lbs. of shrimp, 109 boxes of crabs, 300 sea trout, 2 alligators, 43 frogs, 20 trawls, 20 butterfly nets, 18 boats, 1 gun, 1 commercial fishing license, 1 basic fishing license, 1 skimmer net, 14 red drum.

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-12

7-Boating

2-Take Oysters From Unleased State Water Bottom

1-Take Oysters Without Harvester License

2-Have No Commercial License

CONFISCATIONS:

5 sacks of oysters, 1500 lbs. of shrimp.

Page (12)

S.W.E.P.

TOTAL CASES-102

314 HOURS-RUNNING TIME

232 BOATS CHECKED

91-Trawling In Closed Season

1-No Fishing License

1-Leave Nets Unattended

3-No Commercial Fishing License

1-Fail To Have Registration In Possession

1-No Gear License

1-No Vessel License

1-Allow Another To Use Gear License

1-Allow Another To Use Vessel License

CONFISCATIONS:

27 trawls, 11617 lbs. of shrimp sold for \$15,424.65.

Page (13)

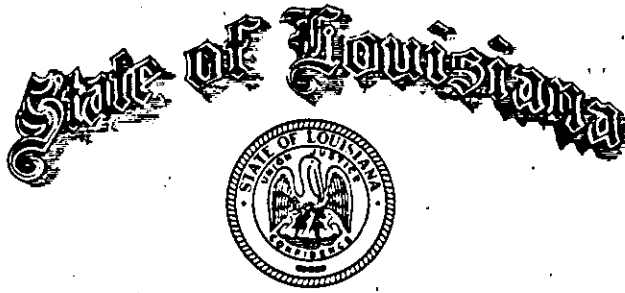
TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT-1949

TOTAL CASE OTHER DIV. - 100

TOTAL CASES OSF - 12

TOTAL CASES SWEP - 102

GRAND TOTAL - 2163



A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

May 13, 1991

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commission Members
FROM: Sharyn Bateman *SP.*
RE: Agenda Item - June Commission Meeting

At the May Commission meeting Item 8 on the agenda "Request to Amend Seismic Fee Schedule - Industry Representatives of Oil, Gas and Geophysical Companies" was taken off the agenda due to lack of representation from the companies. This item is being placed on the June agenda and attached, for your review, is a copy of Ms. Baker's previous memo and materials sent to you last month on this item.

SB

Attachments

SEPTEMBER 1991						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	LABOR DAY					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	ROSH HASHANAH					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			YOM KIPPUR			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING

SECTION 110. TOLEDO BEND RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to amend the Joint Louisiana\Texas Toledo Bend and Caddo Lake Sportfishing Reciprocal Agreement that became effective April 1, 1991.

The daily creel limit, (daily take), for black bass (Micropterus spp.) is set at 8 fish and the minimum total length is set at 14 inches in Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to the following address before August 30, 1991: Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr., Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), 325 (c), 326.3, 673.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission L.R. 14:548 (August 1988), Amended L.R. 17:278 (March 1991), Amended L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER I. FRESHWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING

SECTION 123. Chicot Lake Black Bass Harvest Restriction

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:325(C).
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 13:364 (June 1988), L.R. 16:38
(January 1990), Repealed L.R. 17:277 (March 1991), Repromulgated in S. 149
of this Chapter.

SECTION 149. BLACK BASS REGULATIONS-DAILY TAKE AND SIZE LIMITS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish a statewide daily take (creel limit) of 10 fish for black bass (Micropterus spp.). The possession limit shall be the same as the daily take on water and twice the daily take off water.

In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following waterbodies:

Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish) and False River (Pointe Coupee Parish):

Size Limit:	15 inch - 19 inch slot
Daily Take:	8 fish - of which no more than 2 fish may exceed 19 inches maximum total length.*
Possession Limit:	On Water - Same as daily take Off Water - Twice the daily take

A 15 - 19 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 15 inches and 19 inches, both measurements inclusive.

Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes), Black Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Caney Creek Lake (Jackson Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), Lake

Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

Size Limit:	14 ~ 17 inch slot
Daily Take:	8 fish - of which no more than 4 fish may exceed 17 inches maximum total length.
Possession Limit:	On Water - Same as daily take Off Water - Twice the daily take

A 14 - 17 inch slot means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 14 inches and 17 inches, both measurements inclusive.

* Maximum total length - The distance in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the most posterior point of the depressed caudal fin as measured with mouth closed on a flat surface.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to the following address before August 30, 1991: Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr., Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), 325 (c), 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 14:364 (June 1988), Amended L.R. 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated L.R. 17:489 (May 1991), Amended L.R. 17: (1991).

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman

May 29, 1991

Approved _____

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting as set by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be at ~~10:00 A.M.~~ on Thursday, June 6, 1991, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Louisiana Room, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. *> 1:30 P.M.*

The following will be on the agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes for May 2, 1991
3. Boise Cascade WMA Lease Renewals and Recognition
4. 1991 Turkey Hunting Season Report and Shot Gun Drawing
5. Recommended Changes in Notice of Intent on 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
6. Overview of Habitat ~~Program~~ *Conservation Division (Pa. Tovar)*
7. Notice of Intent - 22 Inches Minimum Total Size Limit for Commercial Harvest of Bowfin
8. Informational Shrimp Report on Season Opening
9. Update on Spotted Seatrout
10. Request to Amend Seismic Fee Schedule - Industry Representatives of Oil, Gas and Geophysical Companies
11. Sale of Chartres Street Property
12. Monthly Law Enforcement Report
13. Acting Secretary Report to the Commission
14. Set September Meeting Date
15. Public Comments

Public Hearing on 1991-92 Hunting Regulations

May 29, 1991

Approved AMM

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11. Monthly Law Enforcement Report
12. Acting Secretary Report to the Commission
13. Set September Meeting Date
14. Public Comments

Public Hearing on 1991-92 Hunting Regulations

*over items
to 11:00 AM
D. Turner*

RECEIVED

LA. DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

MAY - 3 1991

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OFFICE OF FISHERIES

A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

May 3, 1991

Jerry
Bennie F.
John R.
Karen F.

Return to me by 5/20.

JC

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
and Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: A. Kell McInnis III, Acting Secretary *AKM*

RE: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 6, 1991

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Sharyn Bateman by Tuesday, May 21st, any agenda items your office may have for the June 6, 1991, Commission meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda.

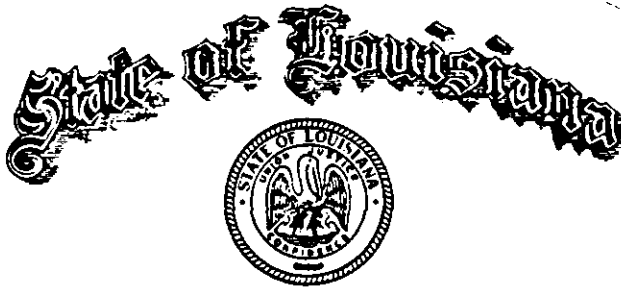
Thank you for your cooperation!

AKM/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine

5-7-91
Claude / Barney
return agenda items to
me by 5-17-91.
Kam

Cathy-
No agenda items.
I will be attending the meeting
Kam



91 MAY 3 10:11

A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

LA. WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR
GAME DIVISION

May 3, 1991

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
and Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: A. Kell McInnis III, Acting Secretary *AKM*

RE: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 6, 1991

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Thank you for your cooperation! *

AKM/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine

- 2) Property Exchange between Ocie Singletary and Dept., Pearl River *WMA*
- 3) 1991 Turkey Hunting Season Report and *and then Denning Proposed*
- 5) Public Hearing on Hunting Seasons, 1991-92
- 4) Discussion of *Recommended* changes in Notice of Intent on 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
- 1) Boise Cascade *WMA* Lease Renewal

Game Dw.

Items for June Comm. meeting

- 1) Boise Cascade ^{WMA} lease Renewals and Recognition
- 2) Property Exchange between Ocie Singletery and Dept. Pearl River WMA
- 3) 1991 Turkey Hunting Season Report and Shot Gun Drawing
- 4) Recommended changes in Notice of Intent on 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
- 5) Public Hearing on Proposed Resident Game ¹⁹⁹¹⁻⁹² Hunting Seasons. ~~1991-92~~

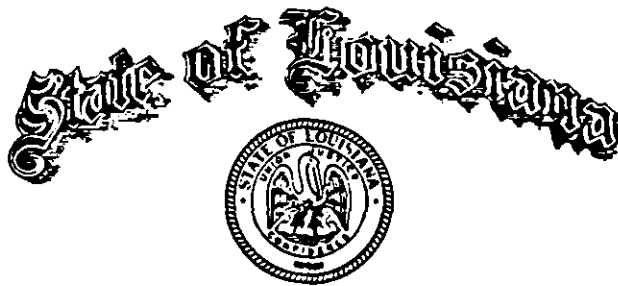
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LA. DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

MAY - 3 1991

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OFFICE OF FISHERIES

A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

May 3, 1991

Jerry
Bennie F. ←
John R.
Karen F.

Return to me by 5/20.

JC

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
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Thank you for your cooperation!

AKM/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine

*Sharon Fish Div. Bennie
Foster
Commission Agenda:*

*Notice of Intent - 22 inches
minimum total size limit for
commercial harvest of bowfin*

RECEIVED
LA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

MAY - 6 1991

FISH DIVISION

*File, Read + Harry
Agave Irons? OK/5/1*

RECEIVED

LA. DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

MAY - 3 1991

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OFFICE OF FISHERIES



Jerry

Bennie F.
John R. ←
Karen F.

Return to me by 5/20.

JC

A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary

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BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 1991

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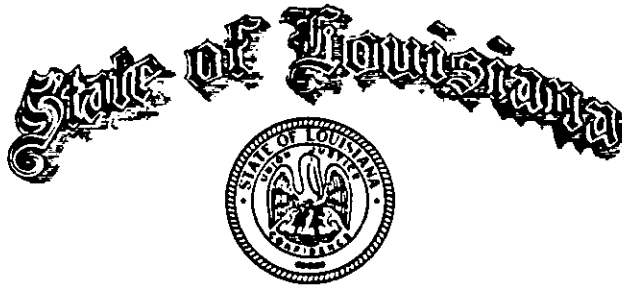
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Thank you for your cooperation!

AKM/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine

- 1.) INTERNATIONAL SHRIMP REPORT ON SEASON OPENING
- 2.) UPDATES ON SCOTTS SCORPION QUOTA.



A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 1991

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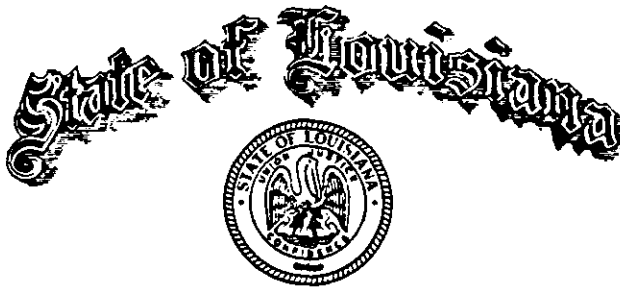
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Thank you for your cooperation!

AKM/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine

5/13
*Nothing for June
meeting
Bob Dennie*



A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary

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AKM/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine

*Sharyn -
Let's try one more
time - ditto on the
Seismic rule
change
(maybe this time try will
do it.)
Also: Sale of Charities trust
property.*



A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary

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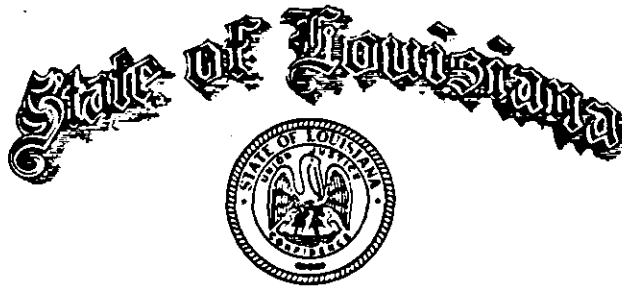
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Thank you for your cooperation!

AKM/sb

Case Report - wv.

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
✓ Winton Vidrine



A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary

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AKM/sb

C: ~~Don~~ Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine

State of Louisiana



ok Akke

A. Kell McInnis III
Acting Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
(504) 765-2800

Buddy Roemer
Governor

May 22, 1991

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: A. Kell McInnis III, Acting Secretary
RE: June Board Meeting Agenda

The next regular public board meeting as set by the Commission will be at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 6, 1991, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Louisiana Room, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The following will be on the agenda:

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ROBERT CHABRECK

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5. Recommended Changes in Notice of Intent on 1991-92 Resident Game Hunting Seasons

JERRY CLARK

6. Notice of Intent - 22 Inches Minimum Total Size Limit for Commercial Harvest of Bowfin
7. Informational Shrimp Report on Season Opening
8. Update on Spotted Seatrout Quota

Page 2
May 22, 1991

BETTSIE BAKER

9. Request to Amend Seismic Fee Schedule - Industry
Representatives of Oil, Gas and Geophysical Companies
10. Sale of Chartres Street Property

WINTON VIDRINE

11. Monthly Law Enforcement Report

A. KELL MCINNIS

12. Acting Secretary's Report to the Commission
13. Set September Meeting Date

PUBLIC COMMENTS

14. Public Hearing on Proposed 1991-92 Game Hunting Seasons

C: Bettsie Baker
Robert Chabreck
Jerry Clark
Don Puckett
John Medica
Division Chiefs

State of Louisiana



A. Kell McInnis III
Acting Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
(504) 765-2800

Buddy Roemer
Governor

May 22, 1991

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Division Chiefs

State of Louisiana



A. Kell McInnis III
Acting Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
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Buddy Roemer
Governor

May 22, 1991

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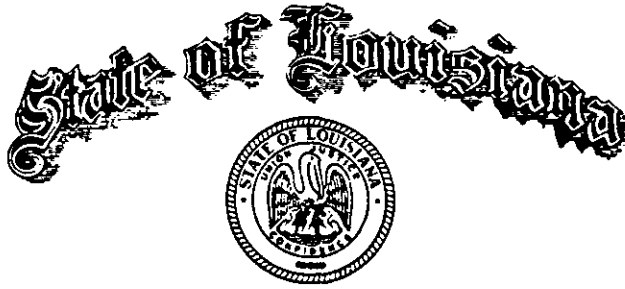
A. KELL MCINNIS

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13. Set September Meeting Date

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14. Public Hearing on Proposed 1991-92 Game Hunting Seasons

C: Bettsie Baker
Robert Chabreck
Jerry Clark
Don Puckett
John Medica
Division Chiefs



A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 1991

M E M O R A N D U M

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FROM: A. Kell McInnis III, Acting Secretary *AKM*

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AKM/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

A. Kell McInnis III
Acting Secretary



CONTACT
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5/30/91

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6, in the Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge.

The following will be on the agenda:

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of minutes for May 2.
3. Boise Cascade WMA lease renewals and recognition.
4. 1991 turkey hunting season report and shotgun drawing.
5. Recommended changes in Notice of Intent on 1991-92 resident game hunting seasons.
6. Overview of Habitat Conservation Division.
7. Notice of Intent - 22 inches minimum total size limit for commercial harvest of bowfin.
8. Informational shrimp report on season opening.
9. Update on spotted seatrout.
10. Request to amend seismic fee schedule - Industry representatives of oil, gas and geophysical companies.
11. Sale of Chartres Street property.
12. Monthly law enforcement report.
13. Acting Secretary's report to Commission.
14. Set September meeting date.
15. Public comments.

Public hearing on 1991-92 hunting regulations.

LWFC plans changes in black bass creel limit, deer regulations

By MIKE COOK
Outdoor editor

Changes in the daily black bass creel limit and in deer hunting regulations on some wildlife management areas could take place following Thursday's meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in Baton Rouge.

However, bills and resolutions pending in the Legislature propose even greater changes.

The commission served notice of intent to increase the bass limit from eight to 10 fish daily on all waters except Trophy and Quality lakes and two Texas-Louisiana border lakes.

Regulations on Toledo Bend and Caddo Lake which went into effect May 1 would remain — an eight-bass daily limit and a 14-inch minimum. However, on the Sabine River below Toledo Bend, changes would allow a 10-bass daily limit and no minimum size rather than the 14-inch minimum, five-bass limit now in effect.

Present regulations on the Trophy Lakes (False River and Lake Concordia) which would remain are eight bass daily — including no more than two larger than 19 inches — and all bass between 15 and 19 inches, inclusive, must be returned to the water alive.

On the seven Quality lakes, the daily limit is eight bass — no more than four larger than 17 inches — and all bass between 14 and 17 inches, inclusive, must be returned to the water alive. The Quality lakes are Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita parishes), Black Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Caney Creek Lake (Jackson Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish).

A resolution in the Legislature, already reported favorably out of committee, proposes suspending portions of state law and restoring the statewide, 15-bass daily limit that was in effect before the Black Bass Management Plan became effective April 1. A bill, yet to be heard, proposes taking bass management authority from the LWFC and giving it to the Legislature.

Bills and resolutions also are pending proposing a moratorium on doe hunting on some wildlife management areas.

The LWFC served notice of intent on deer hunting regulations in March but will not ratify them until the July meeting. Thursday, the commission heard from Hugh Bateman, administrator of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Game Division, on recommendations for changes.

Bateman asked the commission to consider three options:

Option A — Bucks only hunting on the Big Lake, Bouef and Saline Wildlife Management Areas (Nov. 29, 30 and Dec 1, 1991); establish self-clearing stations on those WMAs to obtain hunter participation and success information, and convert the Thistlewaite WMA to a

pre-application lottery system for either-sex gun hunts.

Option B — Retain either-sex deer hunting regulations as recommended in the original notice of intent.

Option C — Complete closure of all deer hunting on the Big Lake, Bouef and Saline WMAs.

Don Dubuc, representing several hunting clubs in the St. Tammany Parish area, asked the commission to move a small portion from the proposed new Area 6 for deer hunting to Area 1.

The commission referred the recommendations and request to the Hunting and Regulations Committee and asked for a report before the next commission meeting.

Alexandria attorney Richard Daigre, spokesman for the Louisiana Wildlife Management Association, asked the commission to suspend hunting completely on the Big Lake, Bouef, Saline and Sicily Island Hills WMAs if necessary to restore deer populations.

Bateman asked that Kell McInnis III acting LWFC secretary, be authorized to consider development of a lottery system for deer hunting on the Thistlewaite WMA.

Bateman reported 1,317 gobblers were voluntarily taken by hunters to check stations during the 1991 spring turkey season. He said that was down 200 from last year, primarily because of bad weather.

The rain also virtually wiped out the first spring turkey hatch in bottomland hardwood areas and greatly reduced it in the hills, Bateman reported. He said he didn't expect second nesting attempts to be very successful.

Everyone who brought a turkey to a check station was eligible to win one of three shotguns donated by Tri-Parish, Cenla and North-Central chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Winners were T.W. Thompson, Steve Gottschalk and Tommy Smith.

Jerry Clark, assistant LWFC secretary, said when he ran computer models on the commercial speckled trout catch, using historical data when summer harvest is low, it indicated the 1.25 million pound commercial quota for speckled trout will not be reached before a new quota would go into effect. Clark said, however, that he believes the summer harvest will be higher than it has been historically and the commercial season might close, but that a date can't be projected.

Preliminary data indicate that only 958,467 pounds of speckled trout had been caught commercially through May.

In other action, the commission:

- Heard a report that the spring brown shrimp season ranged from only fair to poor across the coast when compared to the last five years but that it could improve as environmental conditions change.

- Served notice of intent to establish a statewide 22 inch minimum size for bowfin harvested for commercial purposes.